

## Mr Carter hopeful of arms pacts in 1978

President Carter made an optimistic forecast in Warsaw yesterday that 1978 would see a resolution of many issues in arms limitation talks between America and Russia. As for strategic arms, many major issues had already been settled. The President told a news conference that he would reply in writing to questions on human rights, sent to him by dissident Polish journalists. They had been forbidden by the Polish authorities to attend the conference. Mr Carter said he had no plan to visit Cairo on his present tour.

## Warsaw told of issues resolved with Russia

Warsaw, Dec 30.—President Carter today promised to send a written reply to dissident Polish journalists who were excluded from the first news conference given by an American President in a Marxist country. The underground dissident newspaper *Opinia* asked for accreditation to cover Mr Carter's trip but was refused by the Polish communist authorities. However, the newspaper submitted written questions through the American Embassy, and Mr Carter said he would respond in writing.

*Opinia* asked among other things whether a permanent international body should be established to supervise observance of human and civil rights. It also asked Mr Carter to say what effect the establishment of rival political parties in Poland would have on international détente. The news conference was beamed by satellite to the United States but was not shown live in Poland.

*Opinia* is one of 14 "independent" newspapers produced by a variety of means ranging from washing machine rollers to batteries of typewriters. The first edition of the fourteenth such paper, *Gospodarka* (Farmer), directed at agricultural workers, appeared today. The emergence of the dissident newspapers in Poland is unique in Communist East Europe. Beset by serious economic and social difficulties, the Warsaw Government has made little attempt to clamp down on them.

*Opinia*, which claims a circulation of about 5,000, is the biggest of the dissident publications. It is run by a Committee for the Defence of Human Rights, itself illegal but tolerated. Today's news conference was dominated by the problem of reaching a settlement in the Middle East.

The President denied reports that he was planning to go to Egypt in the course of his current nine-day tour of six nations. Nevertheless, he pointed out that he had a "standing invitation" from President Sadat. On Thursday Mr Sadat expressed surprise and disappointment at President Carter's comment, made in Washington, that he did not favour creation

of an independent Palestinian nation. Evidently seeking to head any risk which may have opened, Mr Carter stated today: "We have no intention or desire to impose a settlement."

But he said his position on a Palestinian state had not changed, although "any agreement that can be reached between the Israelis and Egypt would be acceptable to us."

Mr Carter said he would "certainly consider" visiting Egypt if the situation warranted it. The White House spokesman, Mr Jody Powell, said later that if a trip to Cairo became necessary, it could be decided "within two or three days."

The conference came during a busy day, which included ceremonial wreath-laying ceremonies in a blustery winter weather and formal talks with Polish leaders. At the news conference Mr Carter said his talks on issues of peace and war with Mr Edward Giersek, the Polish party leader, and his colleagues had been "very fruitful."

Wearing an earphone through which he received simultaneous translation of a question from a Polish reporter, the President said he had been encouraged by recent progress in arms negotiations with the Soviet Union and hoped to conclude the Salt 2 talks next spring. "We have resolved many of the major issues," he said. "A few still remain. We have made good progress in recent months."

His optimistic prognosis was in contrast with reports in Washington which said the Salt talks had run into serious snags and that chances were fading for an agreement in 1978. Mr Carter also said that progress was being made in other arms talks: an agreement to limit military activity in the Indian Ocean, a ban on the use of chemical and biological weapons, a prohibition of all nuclear testing, and curbs on the sale of conventional arms.

He concluded his assessment of the current state of Soviet-American negotiations by saying: "I believe 1978 will see a resolution of many of these issues."

Carter appeal to Polish nationalism and photograph, page 4

## Sir Douglas Allen and Equal Opportunities chairman among five life peers in New Year Honours Mr Jack Jones and Dr Leavis become Companions of Honour

By Michael Hatfield  
Political Reporter

Two controversial and influential figures, Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, and Professor F. R. Leavis, literary critic and moralist, are made Companions of Honour in the New Year Honours published today.

Mr Jones, who retires in March, will be remembered as one of the architects of the social contract as well as for his unwavering support of socialist ideals, and the intellectual vigour of Mr Leavis and his practical approach to life and literature will continue to have its say.

The acceptance of an honour by Mr Jones comes after his strong advocacy of the abolition of the House of Lords at the Labour Party conference in October. He also disclosed that he had been offered a peerage but "I told them I did not want it".

The status setting up the Order of the Companions of Honour states that it is for "such persons as may have rendered conspicuous services of national importance".

The New Year Honours include five life peers, two of them former employees of Transport House, the Labour Party headquarters.

Miss Betty Lockwood, chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, was woman's officer of the party until she took up her present appointment. Mr Michael Young, who until recently was chairman of the National Consumer Council, and is chairman of the Maudslayi Centre, was head of Labour's research department after the Second World War.

The other life peers are: Sir Douglas Allen, retiring Head of the Home Civil Service, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Martin Charteris, former Private Secretary to the Queen and Keeper of her Majesty's Archives, and Professor Oliver McGregor, professor of social institutions at London University.

Four new Privy Counsellors have been created: Mr Concanan, Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office, Mr Davies, Minister of State, the Treasury, Mr Gilbert, Minister of State, Ministry of Defence, and Mr Morris, Minister of State, Civil Service Department.

Among those who receive knighthoods are: Mr Tom Hopkinson, former editor of *Picture Post*, for services to journalism, Mr David McVie, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Mr John Methven, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, Mr Leslie Murphy, chairman of the National Enterprise Board, Mr George Smith, general secretary of the Union of Construction, Metals, Trades and Technicians, Mr Kenneth Newman, Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Mr Andrew



Honours for, left to right, Mr Jack Jones, Miss Betty Lockwood, Mr Peter Pears, Dr Leavis, and Mr Michael Young.

nized for their community work by being awarded the British Empire Medal. She has cared for 80 foster children over the past 30 years. She comes from Mid Glamorgan.

In the field of community work Mr Donald Tyerman, a former editor of *The Economist* and a former deputy editor of *The Times*, is appointed CBE for his services to the Save the Children Fund.

Artistic merit is well represented. The list includes Mrs Isabel Worsley, better known as Isabel Baille, the distinguished singer who sang with Toscanini. She becomes a Dame Commander of the British Empire.

Mr Walter Winterbottom, a former manager of the England football team, receives a knighthood for his services to sport. Mr Michael Brearley, captain of the England cricket team, is appointed OBE. Others created OBE include Mr Phil Bennett, Mr Maurice Goldstein, for services to table tennis, and Mr Dorian Williams, chairman of the British Horse Society.

List in full, pages 10 & 11  
Leading Article, page 13  
City knighthoods, page 15

## President's undiplomatic interpreter lacks polish

From Vernon A. Gidley Jr  
Warsaw, Dec 30

It was not what President Carter said here that irritated and disturbed the Poles so much; it was what they thought he said.

Mr Carter had hardly stepped off his aircraft to be welcomed by Mr Giersek, the Polish leader, before the State Department translator, accompanying him, Mr Stephen Seymour, had the President's foot in his mouth.

When Mr Carter spoke, a number of English-speaking Polish journalists and other Polish sources agree, this is what came out:

He said he had just left America that morning, but his audience at the airport and on television was told he was saying he had left for good.

At another point, the translator had Mr Carter desiring the Polish people carnally when he only wished them well.

Russian syntax and a Russian word were used.

When Mr Carter sought to praise the Polish constitution of 1791 as one of the three great documents in the eighteenth-century struggle for human rights, it came out to Polish listeners as a ridicule.



Miss Regina Dangerfield and Mr Robert Claiborne-Dixon, Caxton Hall's last bridal pair, after the ceremony yesterday.

## Last nuptials before the curtain falls

By David Nicholson-Lord

The flashbulbs popped, the confetti showered and the happy couple drove off in a white Rolls-Royce as Caxton Hall's last nuptials were celebrated yesterday.

Yet for all the show-business trappings, it was a momentous occasion that has witnessed the marriages of such diverse personalities as Sir Oswald Mosley, Diana Dors and Ringo Starr.

Not even the presence among the guests of Mr Pete Murray, the disc jockey, and Miss Jackie Trent, the singer, could disguise the chilly fact that, in the words of the last bride, an era was over.

From the new year local government cost-effectiveness figures that all marriages in Westminster will be registered at the council house in Marylebone Road. With the simultaneous closing of the Paddington register office, a saving of

## Chancellor hints at new income tax cuts

By Our Political Reporter

Further cuts in direct rather than indirect taxation in the new budget were predicted by Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in an interview on ITN's *News at Ten* last night.

Asked which form of tax cuts he favoured, Mr Healey replied: "I think income tax." He explained that all Britain's indirect taxes, such as value-added tax, were much lower than elsewhere in Europe, but income tax was substantially higher.

Mr Healey said the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development was pessimistic in assuming that settlements and earnings will increase by a tenth in the public sector but by 15 per cent or more in the private sector. He said there had been only two private-sector settlements above 10 per cent: at Ford and Vauxhall.

## Resignation of PPS through work pressure

By Our Political Reporter

Mr John Cartwright, MP for Greenwich, Woolwich East, chairman of the centre-right Manifesto Group of Labour MPs, and a member of the Labour Party national executive committee, has resigned as parliamentary private secretary to Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, because of pressure of work.

He is to be succeeded by Mr Giles Radice, MP for Chester-le-Street, who is also a leading member of the Manifesto Group.

## Firemen unlikely to budge Mr Rees at tripartite talks

By Christopher Thomas  
Labour Reporter

Mr Rees, Home Secretary, will enter crucial talks with the firemen's leaders and local authority employers on Tuesday determined to stand by the Government's 10 per cent ceiling.

It seems unlikely that there will be any significant shift on the offer that has been made. But the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) will make a determined attempt to win some concessions that might pave the way to peace.

It is clear that there is some agitation for a return to work in one of the union's 14 regions, the south-east. About 180 firemen in the Surrey brigade, nearly a third of the total, have drifted back to work and several red fire appliances are being used in addition to the "Green Goddess" appliances.

Mr Leonard Gibbs, the south-east region chairman, and Mr Harold Evans, the Surrey brigade secretary, have been removed from office for going back to work. Mr Gibbs, who was advised by letter yesterday of his suspension, returned for personal reasons and union officials were at pains last night to emphasize that there was no acrimony.

More than fifty FBU members in the Surrey brigade, mostly officers, defied the strike call from the outset. A senior officer, said last night that pickets were not stopping the red appliances. "That would be an offence," he added.

In Kent and East and West Sussex, which make up the other brigades in the south-east region, the strike is still intact. Mr Rees made it clear yesterday that while agreeing to Tuesday's tripartite talks, he

would be sticking to the terms of the guidelines. Those amount to a promise of more money later, but no more than 10 per cent now. The Government is prepared to underwrite a two-stage increase to give the firemen the equivalent of the skilled industrial workers' wage by November, 1978. Assuming 10 per cent annual wage rises between now and then, that would give the firemen more than £100 a week.

After the talks the union will again have to face the delicate question whether to recall the national delegate conference that alone can end the strike. It almost certainly will not do so without making a recommendation on whether to return to work.

The FBU executive opposed delegate conference will be the strike and the timing for a critical judgment by members on the strike. The men are generally still determined to hold out.

Delegates from the 18 Essex full-time fire stations voted unanimously in Chelmsford yesterday to continue the strike. The local authority employers said last night: "Our mood is one of caution and we are not prepared to express either optimism or pessimism."

Mr Terence Parry, FBU general secretary, will be writing to the TUC formally asking for a reconvened congress to reaffirm its policy for an immediate return to free collective bargaining.

The executive of the National and Local Government Officers' Association has voted by 44 to 17, against a motion pledging full support to the FBU "in its campaign for realistic rates of pay". But a number of the union's branches have given donations.

Fire kills child, page 2

## White votes agreement 'next week'

Salisbury, Dec 30.—A black nationalist leader negotiating to end white rule today said that agreement on the complex issue of white parliamentary representation under black rule is possible next week.

"Talking off the cuff, I would say the agreement on the issue can take place any time next week," the Rev Nduabang Sihole said in an interview. Mr Sihole, leader of the faction of the African National Council known as the ANC (Sihole), is one of three black leaders taking part in the conference aimed at an "internal" majority rule settlement.

## Mr Vance will join Israel-Egypt talks

From Moshe Brilliant  
Tel Aviv, Dec 30

Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, informed Israel today that he will join the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers in Jerusalem for the meetings of the political committee of the Cairo conference, scheduled to open on January 15.

Mr Samuel Lewis, the American Ambassador, called on Mr Moshe Dayan, the Foreign Minister, and brought official word that Mr Vance accepted the invitation extended yesterday and will attend the meetings at least for a brief period.

As stated in Parliament on Wednesday by Mr Begin, the Prime Minister, the committee will deal with the problems of Israeli civilian settlements in the Sinai peninsula which is to be returned to Egyptian sovereignty under the proposed peace treaty as well as with the deadlock over the future of Palestinian Arabs.

Mr Lewis told reporters after his meeting today that the rapport between the Government of Israel and the United States had grown steadily since the present Administration took office in June as Mr Carter and Mr Begin got to know each other better.

Our Cairo Correspondent writes: Egypt, embarrassed by Mr Carter's opposition to the creation of a Palestinian state, was today assessing the implications of the American President's attitude to the Middle East peace-making process.

## Stronger pound's effect on exports worries industry

Concern over the effects of an improving pound on company profits and export competitiveness has prompted the British Chemical Industries, Britain's largest industrial company, to give a warning that the strengthening of sterling would have an adverse effect on its results in the fourth quarter of this year. The pound again moved up against the dollar, closing at \$1.9170.

## Irish union chief held

Police in Liverpool have detained Mr Philip Flynn, a prominent Irish trade union leader, under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Merseyside police said that he was stopped during the night as he was about to board the Liverpool ferry to return to the Irish Republic. Dublin was in touch with the Foreign Office over the incident.

## Who's who in TV serial recreating Watergate

A television serial clearly dramatizing the events and personalities of the Watergate scandal and President Nixon's downfall is now being shown on BBC1. *Washington: Behind Closed Doors*, the United States, where Jason Robards's portrayal of President Richard M. Nixon was instantly recognizable. David Cross identifies other main characters.

## Lloyd reaches final

John Lloyd, by beating Bob Ghitman, of Australia, in the semi-final round, became the first British player since Fred Perry in 1924 to reach the men's singles final of the Australian tennis championships. His opponent in the final will be Vitas Gerulaitis, of the United States.

## Turks take command

Turkish generals will take over command of important Nato land and air forces, based at Izmir in Turkey, in a reshuffle announced by General Hic, the alliance's commander. The American generals who have commanded up to now will become deputies to the Turkish commanders.

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# HOME NEWS

## All-party group of MPs and peers call for a strengthening of the laws against pornography

By Ian Bradley

An all-party group of 14 MPs and peers has called for a strengthening of the laws on pornography. They want the use of children for pornographic purposes to be made a criminal offence and propose an extension of the definition of obscenity.

The group, which is led in the House of Commons by Mr Michael Allison, Conservative MP for Barking and in the House of Lords by Lord Longford and Lord Nugent of Guildford, made their proposals in a submission yesterday to the Committee of Inquiry on Obscenity and Film Censorship set up by the Government in June under the chairmanship of Professor Bernard Williams.

Several members of the group, who are all practising Christians of various denominations, urged the Home Secretary last year to set up a committee of inquiry on pornography. When Professor Williams's appointment was announced they protested at the fact that the chairmanship of the committee had been given to a well-known humanist.

In their submission they say

that the Obscene Publications Act, 1959, has proved uncertain and ineffective. They propose a new definition of obscenity which introduces the concept of "material which if repeatedly used would tend to deprave or corrupt."

They recognize "that there will always be an element of doubt whether a single contact with even the most obscene material would corrupt. The real danger is that it tempts the victim into further exposure which then becomes an addiction."

The group suggests that the defence of public good should be deleted from the Obscene Publications Act, although it accepts that the defence in the interests of science, literature or art should remain.

It also proposes that private individuals be allowed again to bring prosecutions in the case of theatre and film performances which they consider to be obscene. The right of private prosecution was stopped by the Theatres Act, 1968, and for cinema performances by the Cinemas Act, 1968, and for cinema performances by the Cinemas Act, 1968, and for cinema performances by the Cinemas Act, 1968.

The group believes that special attention should be paid to protecting children and young people from exploitation for pornographic purposes. It proposes making it a criminal offence to persuade, employ or offer payment to any child or juvenile to be photographed or appear on the stage or before a camera unclothed, or to stimulate any sex acts or engage in sexual behaviour.

Announcing the group's proposals, Lord Nugent said: "As the producers of pornography push out the boundaries to enlarge their market into more and more offensive material, it is more than ever necessary that some of us should get up and say that an offence to public opinion is being created and that this is a serious danger to our national life."

The other members of the group are Lord Barrington, Lord Besswick, Lord Carr of Hadley, Lord Halsbury, the Bishop of Leicester, Mr Alan Beith, Mr Peter Mills, Mr Eric Ogden, Mr Terence Walker, Mr Patrick Cormack and Mr Cledwyn Hughes.

## Scott church needs £100,000 for repairs

By John Young  
Planning Reporter

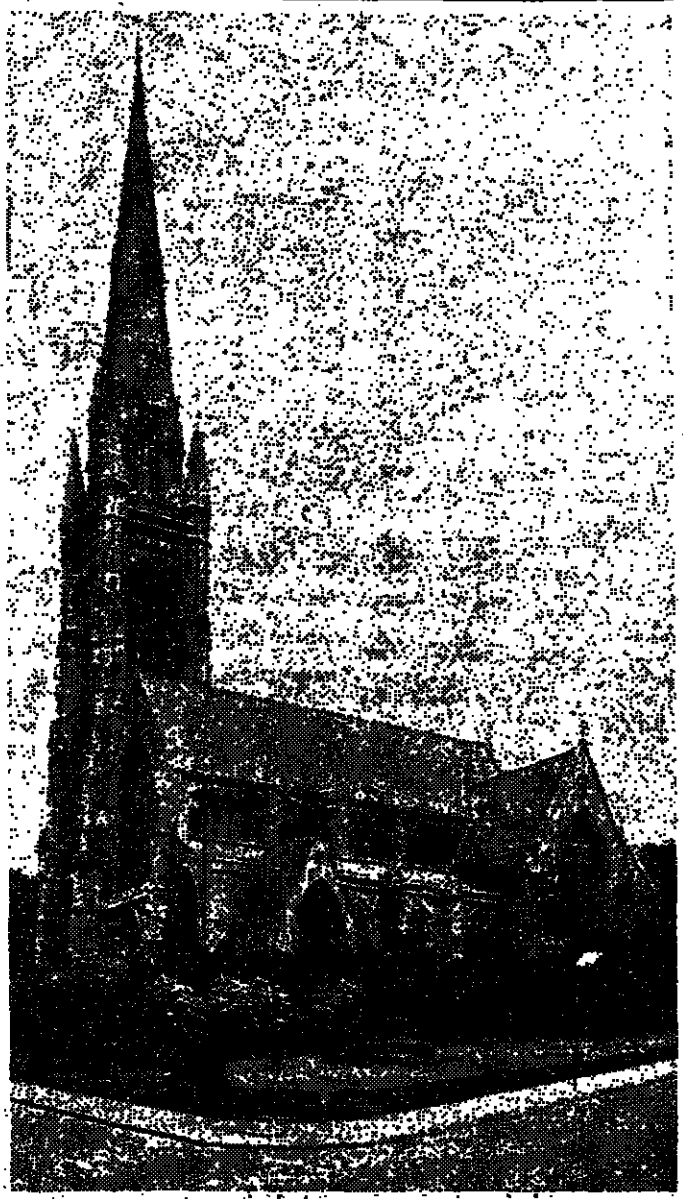
An estimated £100,000 is needed for repairs to All Souls' Church, Halifax, West Yorkshire (right). The building, which Sir George Gilbert Scott, its architect, is thought to have considered his best, has been closed for the past year because of danger from decaying stonework.

The church was completed in 1859. It was commissioned and paid for by Mr Edward Alroyd, a local industrialist, who visualized it as the centrepiece of one of the model communities that were popular with wealthy philanthropists of the period.

The surrounding district, which includes Alroyd's house, now turned into a museum, was recently designated an outstanding conservation area.

Those pressing for the church's restoration are pinning their hopes on the Government's announcement last August that £750,000 would be made available in the next financial year for the preservation of ecclesiastical buildings in actual or potential use, as opposed to those declared redundant.

Under the new scheme grants of up to half the cost of repairs may be made through the Historic Buildings Council.



## Winchester motorway plan may be dropped

By Michael Bailly  
Transport Correspondent

Winchester's much disputed motorway-by-pass scheme is likely to be dropped after long and costly protests. The government inspector is not due to report until next summer, but Mr David Parnham, chairman of the Winchester M3 Joint Working Group, said yesterday: "We are confident of a great victory."

Protesters have spent seven years and nearly £50,000 arguing that the 12-mile motorway is unnecessary, that it would damage the cathedral city, and that government departments had over-estimated traffic forecasts to justify it, and had underestimated costs.

The Department of Transport declined to comment yesterday, but promised to take account in deciding whether to build the road of the views of the Winchester M3 Joint Working Group, published earlier this year, and of the forthcoming report of the Leitch committee on roads. Both favour the scheme.

The Leitch committee, as reported exclusively in The Times recently, finds that roads have been built unnecessarily and in the wrong place, and that traffic forecasts have been too high and cost estimates too low.

The White Paper, signalling an end to large-scale motorway construction in Britain, promised a "more flexible approach" in planning roads in places and to different standards according to need rather than "building to lines superimposed on maps and to rigid standards."

That is just what the Winchester protesters have proposed. Using eminent planning consultants, a statistician and an investment analyst, they attacked the case for the motorway at sometimes rowdy public inquiries, and suggested instead upgrading existing roads at only two-thirds of the cost.

Mr Parnham said yesterday: "We showed that the motorway cost would be nearer £26m at 1975 prices than the £20m estimated by the department, and that traffic flows in the 1990s would be only 60,000 vehicles a day, instead of 85,000."

"For the first time we were able to go into the case for a motorway in great detail and put up an alternative that would meet the traffic need without loss of access and with far less disruption and environmental damage, for only £17m-£18m."

## Boycott move on homosexual 'discrimination'

By Our Labour Staff

Britain's fourth biggest union, the National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalgo), may drop a plan to hold its 1981 annual conference in Scarborough because the local council refused last year to accept a booking for the Campaign for Homosexual Equality.

Nalgo estimates that the town would lose £300,000 if it held a long conference, which involves more than 3,000 people, was held elsewhere.

A council official said yesterday: "This is a family holiday town and the majority feel that they did not want to encourage or pinpoint homosexuality. It was a democratic decision."

## Thieves take bait

Police yesterday were seeking thieves who took 250 gallons of live maggots, valued at about £1,000, from a Nottingham bait factory at a time when there is an acute shortage.

## Health authority appeals over £243,309 award

Camden and Islington Area Health Authority has lodged an appeal against the record £243,309 damages awarded in the High Court on December 7 by Dr Lim, a former senior psychiatric registrar at Friern Hospital, New Southgate, London, suffered brain damage during a minor operation at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital.

Dr Lim, a former senior psychiatric registrar at Friern Hospital, New Southgate, London, suffered brain damage during a minor operation at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital.

## Scottish Ballet earns £250,000

Performances by the Scottish Ballet at home and abroad have earned more than £250,000 and attracted 172,000 people over the past year.

Mr Robin Anderson, the company's administrator, said yesterday that although the ballet's total subsidy was less than the Scottish National Orchestra's and much less than the Scottish Opera's, it performed in a more widespread audience.

## No inquiry into Tories dispute

Lord Thorneycroft, national chairman of the Conservative Party, has refused a request for an investigation into the circumstances in which Council Mrs Margaret Wood defeated an attempt to oust her as the party's prospective parliamentary candidate for Huddersfield, East.

In a letter to Mr John Galvin, former vice-chairman of the Huddersfield East Conservative Association, Lord Thorneycroft said that each conspiracy was autonomous and he could not interfere.

## Check on animal exports delayed

Two Conservative MPs who planned to visit France yesterday to investigate allegations of neglect of exported animals had to postpone the trip because of bad weather.

Mr Peter Mills, MP for Devon West, and Mr Robert Hoggins, MP for Plymouth-Roscoff, were with a consignment of 160 calves from Devon. But because of bad weather in the Channel the trip was put off until today.

# WEST EUROPE

## Party newspaper accuses Government of being in cahoots with violence and tolerating terrorism by extreme right

## A surprise packet for French Communists

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, Dec 30

The Communist Party has never had much of a reputation for its sense of humour, and in the past week it has not been without grounds for solemn protest.

Three days after shots were fired against the country house in Burgundy of M Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, a suspicious looking parcel was addressed to him at party headquarters, which it was thought, might be a time-bomb.

The police were immediately alerted, and took it away for examination. And indeed it was found to contain about one kilogram of a yellow substance, with a detonator and fuse, and a card bearing the inscription: "Marchais, you too are a Soviet imperialist" with the signature "Man".

The Communist Party did not wait for the findings of the police laboratory to launch into a strident anti-terrorist campaign. M Gaston Flisconnier,

secretary of the Central Committee, made a solemn statement to the press, pointing out that this was one more indication of "a deliberate intention to create a climate of fear and unrest."

He went on to declare: "The present Government majority and its policy produce both inflation and unemployment, disorder and violence. The tolerance—even the indulgence—shown towards these criminal acts by the Government becomes each day more intolerable. French men and women aspire to live in tranquillity and peace. The Government of Messieurs Giscard d'Estaing and Barre is now confronted with its responsibilities."

He had not only M Marchais's parcel to complain about. A similar parcel was discovered in a left-luggage locker of the Air France terminal at the Porte Maillot, and anonymous telephone calls warned two hotels near by that the parcel contained a bomb, due to explode 20 minutes later. At

the same time the persons responsible forwarded to the Elysée Palace the key of the locker.

Police rushed to open the locker, which was found to contain a card labelled "Present for the President of the Republic" and a kilogram of a yellow substance, half a dollar bill, and a label from the luxury food store Fauchon, destroyed by fire a few days before Christmas, presumably by anarchists.

Yesterday it was revealed that the yellow substance in both "bombs" was lard. But carried away by its anti-terrorist crusading zeal, the Communist Party was not going to hold its horses for a detail like that.

Today's issue of L'Humanité contains a long article alleging that the Ministry of the Interior had all the evidence required to arrest the criminals responsible for the attacks against the Communist-inspired League against Racism. The attacks have been attributed to a so-called Joachim Peipper

Group, named after the former SS colonel believed killed by former members of the Resistance 18 months ago.

Despite the evidence, L'Humanité said, the authorities had done nothing. "The Government is very tolerant towards the extreme right," it declared.

An explosive package received yesterday at the British Consulate General in Marseilles was no hoax, however. It contained 100 grammes of tumbler—a very active explosive, according to the experts—linked to a detonating system that would have set it off as soon as the package was opened. It had been posted in Strasbourg.

The suspicious parcel was immediately turned over to the police. All British consulates in France had been warned by the Embassy to be on their guard against suspicious looking letters and parcels after a similar one was received at the offices of the British Chamber of Commerce.

## Turkish generals to take command of Nato's south-eastern flank

From Our Correspondent  
Casteau, Belgium, Dec 30

Nato today announced a command restructuring which, for the first time, puts Turkish generals at the head of important alliance formations.

General Alexander Haig, Nato's supreme commander, said at his headquarters here that, from next summer, Turkish generals would command Nato's Sixth Allied Tactical Air Force and land forces of the south-eastern flank.

Both formations are based at Izmir, in western Turkey, and are commanded by American generals, with Turkish deputies. Americans will now act as deputies to the new Turkish commanders.

"Since mid-1974 political developments in Nato's south-eastern flank have made command and control arrangements

for Nato military forces operating in that theatre increasingly difficult," General Haig said in a statement.

He told reporters that while he was not particularly pleased that the alliance had to change the command structure, it was necessary because "it was an integrated command that was not integrated."

Greece announced it was leaving the integrated command structure of the alliance after the 1974 Turkish invasion of northern Cyprus.

It pulled its officers out of the Nato headquarters, removed its armed forces from the two formations and is now discussing its future military links with the alliance at Nato headquarters in Brussels.

The two formations basically

combined the forces of Greece, Turkey and the United States in joint operations for the defence of Turkey and Greece.

With the Greeks gone, the vast majority of forces under the two commands were Turkish, and the Turkish authorities asked for their officers to take over the positions of the American commanders.

General Haig said the Greek authorities would now have to "determine on their own, at their own pace and within the context of discussions now under way in Brussels" what would be Greece's future relationship with the integrated command structure.

"I want to make it very clear I am not deciding or pre-empting the political authority of Greece," he said.—Reuter and UPI.

## 24 killed in marines bus crash

From Our Correspondent  
Madrid, Dec 30

A busload of Spanish Marines crashed head-on into a loaded 22-ton lorry near the northern Spanish city of Leon today. Twenty-two Marines, the lorry driver and his mate were killed.

A similar number of people were treated for injuries. At least one of them is in intensive care unit of a hospital in the town of Ponferrada near by. The lorry was loaded with grain.

The Marines had left the naval base at El Ferrol, General Franco's home town, shortly before the crash. They were on leave bound for Madrid and Barcelona.

The cause of the collision was not immediately known, although there was evidence that the lorry had crossed over the centre line. The crash occurred in darkness, shortly after 5 a.m., but road and weather conditions were reported to be good at the time.

## Communists lose San Marino power struggle

San Marino, Dec 30

The Communists have lost the first round of a hot-tempered struggle to regain power in the world's oldest and smallest republic.

Last night they gave up the fight to form Western Europe's only Communist government after coming within one vote of a parliamentary majority.

The rulers of San Marino—two captains regent, one of whom is just 28 years old—now seem set to ask the "small Socialist" party to try to build a coalition to deal with the problems of inflation and unemployment that brought down the Christian Democrats four weeks ago.

However, a spring election is the most likely outcome of an ideological deadlock over how this tiny haven near Rimini ought to be governed.—Reuter.

## Signor Andreotti rejects Communist demands

Rome, Dec 30

Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Prime Minister, today rejected Communist pressures for a place in an emergency government and denied that Italy faced a political crisis.

At his first press conference since resigning in August 1976, Signor Andreotti defended the actions of his minority Christian Democratic Government which receives tacit support from the Communists and four other opposition parties.

"This is not a government which is resigning," he declared. "We do not have to consider a new government."

But the Prime Minister declined to answer a question about possible changes in his Cabinet.

Signor Andreotti was pressed repeatedly for his reactions to sharp Communist criticism of his recent performance and demands for cabinet posts in an emergency government. He

replied that he was not sure why the Communists, who had worked with his government since its formation, had changed their ideas.

No one had yet offered any concrete alternatives to his policies and he doubted that a change of government would automatically solve Italy's problems.

"There are deep differences, not on political tactics, but over conviction, philosophy, over a history which has been lived by many," he added. "These differences are realities which cannot be cancelled by a political agreement."

Asked about his statement to the West German magazine Der Spiegel that he opposed any entry of the Communists into government without a general election, Signor Andreotti said this was the official stand of the Christian Democratic Party.

## New Year tax increases for Norwegians

Oslo, Dec 30

The Norwegian Government has wished its four million citizens a happy new year by imposing from January 1 increased taxes, levies and charges on practically everything, including cigarettes and pipe tobacco.

Prices of other foodstuffs, including frozen fish, will increase by 3 to 10 per cent. Spirits, wine and beer as well as cigarettes and pipe tobacco will be even more expensive with price rises of more than 10 per cent.

A packet of 20 cigarettes will cost more than £1 and a bottle of Scotch from £11.

## MP says 4,243 policemen have resigned

Resignations from police forces in England and Wales this year have reached unprecedented levels, Mr Norman Fowler, Conservative MP for Sutton Coldfield, said yesterday.

Figures he has been given by the Home Office show that 4,243 police officers resigned without pension in the first 10 months of this year. No fewer than 960 were from the Metropolitan Police.

Mr Fowler said: "This year

will go down as a disaster year in this respect. It was by far the worst year for police resignations during the 1970s. He said there were 3,287 resignations during 1976, 2,701 in 1975 and 3,657 in 1974.

"For the first time the number of resignations has exceeded 4,000," he added. "An analysis of the figures shows that although most resignations occur in the first two years of service, there are now increasing numbers of resignations

from experienced men."

Mr Fowler said that there had been 730 resignations by men with between five and 10 years' service and 340 by men with between 10 and 15 years' service. Most seriously affected were the big city forces, which were already under most pressure. "These figures must be a cause for national concern. They mean that men with valuable experience are leaving for other jobs in unprecedented numbers."

## Instant coffee prices to be reduced

The price of one of Britain's best selling coffee powders is to be cut by about 15p for a four-ounce jar, it was announced yesterday. Brooke Bond Oxo said that because of a sharp fall in prices on the London market instant coffee could be reduced to £1.10 and £1.20.

The retail price of a four-ounce jar of "Coffee Time", the company's coffee and chicory blend, would also fall to between 50p and £1, compared with the present range of 57p to £1.10.

The company said a ton of coffee now costs £1,800 on the London commodity market, compared with £4,400 last April.

## Warehouse fire charge against woman

From Our Correspondent  
East Grinstead

Mrs Margaret Woods, aged 36, who is divorced, was charged at Haywards's Health Magistrates' Court, Sussex, yesterday with setting fire to her father's warehouse at East Grinstead.

Mrs Woods, of Hadlow Cottage, Dormans Park, mother of two young children, was remanded in hospital custody to appear before East Grinstead magistrates on Thursday. Mr Christopher Russell, for the defence, said she denied the allegation.

The warehouse, in London Road, East Grinstead, belonging to Vacuum Cleaner and Appliances Supplies Ltd, was destroyed by fire on December 17.

## Health authority appeals over £243,309 award

Camden and Islington Area Health Authority has lodged an appeal against the record £243,309 damages awarded in the High Court on December 7 by Dr Lim, a former senior psychiatric registrar at Friern Hospital, New Southgate, London, suffered brain damage during a minor operation at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital.

Dr Lim, a former senior psychiatric registrar at Friern Hospital, New Southgate, London, suffered brain damage during a minor operation at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital.

## Scottish Ballet earns £250,000

Performances by the Scottish Ballet at home and abroad have earned more than £250,000 and attracted 172,000 people over the past year.

Mr Robin Anderson, the company's administrator, said yesterday that although the ballet's total subsidy was less than the Scottish National Orchestra's and much less than the Scottish Opera's, it performed in a more widespread audience.

## No inquiry into Tories dispute

Lord Thorneycroft, national chairman of the Conservative Party, has refused a request for an investigation into the circumstances in which Council Mrs Margaret Wood defeated an attempt to oust her as the party's prospective parliamentary candidate for Huddersfield, East.

In a letter to Mr John Galvin, former vice-chairman of the Huddersfield East Conservative Association, Lord Thorneycroft said that each conspiracy was autonomous and he could not interfere.

## Check on animal exports delayed

Two Conservative MPs who planned to visit France yesterday to investigate allegations of neglect of exported animals had to postpone the trip because of bad weather.

Mr Peter Mills, MP for Devon West, and Mr Robert Hoggins, MP for Plymouth-Roscoff, were with a consignment of 160 calves from Devon. But because of bad weather in the Channel the trip was put off until today.

## Danish anti-EEC groups plan joint poll tactics

From Our Correspondent  
Copenhagen, Dec 30

A number of Danish left-wing parties and some non-socialist anti-EEC groups have agreed to join forces to "destroy the European Community from the inside" when direct elections to the European Parliament are finally held.

These parties together hold 22 seats out of 975 in the Folketing. Anti-EEC groups in other parties whose official policy favours Danish membership could bring the total up to 38 or 40 at most.

Rather than consider their lack of strength in the national Parliament supporters of withdrawal from the Community, anti-EEC groups are trying to get nears of thousands of people at anti-EEC rallies. Opinion polls almost invariably show a majority in favour of withdrawal, the latest one, by Gallup, in Berlin, 72 per cent at the end of last month showed 33 per cent for membership and 43 per cent against with 24 per cent undecided.

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The anti-EEC groups have joined the Popular Anti-EEC Movement, an umbrella organization supported by socialist and non-socialist groups alike. The movement and the Danish Communist Party will present a joint list of candidates in the EEC elections while other left-wing parties are expected to

issue separate lists but in an electoral union with the movement.

Under the Danish system of proportional representation this means that no votes for the anti-EEC groups will be wasted.

In addition to the Communist Party, the People's Socialist Party, formed after a split in the Communist Party in 1968, support the anti-EEC movement. So do the Left Socialists, a group formed by a split in the People's Socialist Party in the 1960s.

Workers' Party, formed by dissatisfied members of these parties in the early 1970s, which is not represented in the Folketing, calls for a boycott of the European elections.

The non-socialist element in the grouping is the Single Tax Party which has existed since the 1920s and has six members in the Folketing.

Nine or 10 members of the ruling Social Democratic Party are opposed to EEC membership, challenging official party policy.

The first real test of strength for the anti-EEC groups will come in the spring when they begin collecting the 62,000 signatures required by law for taking part in elections. Denmark has 15 seats in the European Parliament and Greenland has one.

## Spanish villagers' protest closes down power plant

From Our Correspondent  
Madrid, Dec 30

Angry villagers have shut down an electric power plant in north-western Spain in protest against a bridge across a reservoir, it was learnt today.

Men and women from 13 villages that were cut off by the construction of the reservoir 12 years ago marched on the hydroelectric power plant near the city of Santiago de Compostela on Thursday, armed with sticks. They staked a sit-in in the generator room, forcing the company to shut down the plant.

Firemen were called in last night when those taking part in the sit-in lit fires inside the generator room to keep warm. When the firemen saw no damage was being done to the

machinery, however, they left. A detachment of the Civil Guard has surrounded the building, but has made no effort to remove the protesters.

The sit-in comes after years of legal action and less spectacular protests.

The Puerto de Mouros reservoir on the Ulla river supplies sufficient water to generate nearly 98,000 kilowatts. Residents of the area say the company should either build a bridge across the reservoir or drain it, as it cuts off natural routes.

A small ferryboat crosses the artificial lake but is said to be insufficient. There are no other practical routes or means of transport in the mountainous terrain.

## Children's bodies washed ashore

The bodies of two children were washed up on the Cornish coast yesterday. It is thought they are those of two children on the Danish coaster, the Lady Camilla, which sank of Trevose Head on Christmas Eve.

A life raft washed ashore at Constanine Bay contained one body. The second came ashore six miles away.

## Four hospitals to shut

Northamptonshire Area Health Authority yesterday approved the closure of four hospitals, at Kettering, Corby, Pitterford and Kettering, as part of £2m of financial cuts.

## Doctors' pay report must await Commons' return

By Our Health Services Correspondent

Doctors will have to wait until MPs return to the Commons on January 9 before hearing their review body's conclusions about pay.

The Prime Minister's press office said the letter he received from Sir Ernest Woodroffe, chairman of the review body, before Christmas would be published in Hansard. The British Medical Association and the Conservative Opposition have been pressing for immediate publication.

Publication will probably take the form of a written answer. The profession asked the review body for a statement of intent and recommendations to "rectify anomalies and lead to restoration of the profession's proper economic status."

The report may embarrass the Government by setting out how much doctors' salaries as professional men employed in a state service have fallen comparatively, and because of a similar review body assessment lead to questions about the pay of the Armed Forces.

## Footbalting MPs

The British parliamentary football team is to play the West German Parliament at the National Sports Centre, Crystal Palace, London, on January 14.

## Portuguese air crews call off pay strike

From Our Correspondent  
Lisbon, Dec 30

The strike by pilots and navigators of the Portuguese TAP airline ended early today after the total grounding of its fleet for eight days. Claims by the pilots for a wage rise of nearly 100 per cent would have plunged TAP into bankruptcy, the company claimed.

It offered substantially lower increases, which were rejected by the pilots' trade union.

The strike ended after a 13-hour overnight discussion in the Ministry of Labour between Government and union officials. Negotiations on details of a wage agreement are to continue after the weekend.

## Tourists to have better view of Leaning Tower

From Our Correspondent  
Pisa, Dec 30

Pisa, Dec 30.—The Piazza dei Miracoli in Pisa is to be enlarged to give tourists a better view of the Leaning Tower and the eleventh century cathedral.

Officials said the enlargement had become possible with the acquisition of the Capucine convent behind the tower.

According to the officials, the enlargement will give tourists better views of the church and Leaning Tower from the rear.

## Party office ablaze

Rome, Dec 30

Vandalic set fire to a Christian Democrat Party Office in Florence last night and fire-bombed a laboratory building of the Fine Arts Academy in Rome.

## SALE

OF TWO CENTURIES

**STARTS TUESDAY**  
**JANUARY 3rd**  
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**25%-50% REDUCTIONS!**

Buy now at never to be repeated prices—  
**CHESTER BARRIE, D'AVENZA and ACKERMAN**  
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**GIEVES & HAWKES**  
of No. 1 SAVILE ROW - LONDON W.1.  
Also in the City—Lane Street—Sole starts Tuesday January 3rd.



OVERSEAS

# Nixon men live again in TV soap opera of Watergate years

From David Cross  
Washington, Dec 30

In a city that had lived through every agonizing twist and turn of the Watergate scandal, it did not take long for television viewers to identify the main characters in Washington: Behind Closed Doors, the epic political soap opera about the Nixon years, now being shown on BBC 1.

From the moment Mr Jason Roberts appeared on the screen as Richard M. Nixon, the presidential candidate with a pathological hatred of a despotic president who had beaten him at an earlier election, there was absolutely no doubt that what purported to be fiction had merged with fact.

The serial is in fact based on a novel by Mr John Ehrlichman, the Nixon aide who is serving a jail sentence for his part in Watergate.

Although his physical likeness to Mr Nixon is not great, Mr Roberts' facial features, in particular, are strikingly those of the disgraced former President. Indeed, when Mr Roberts appeared here as the lead in an Eugene O'Neill play before Christmas, many members of the audience, including myself, were unable to divorce his Nixon portrayal from their minds.

British viewers, however, who were never as immersed in the Watergate scandal as his compatriots across the sea, may be having more difficulty in identifying some of the other characters who surround President Nixon.

Mr Ehrlichman, for their benefit, here is a partial list of the most important figures in what became affectionately known here as *Doors*.

There are no prizes for guessing that Andy Griffith, who in the earlier episodes played Esker Scott Anderson, the church-going President beset by the problems of Vietnam, is meant to be the late Lyndon B. Johnson. It is, however, not at all certain that the real President Johnson, who disliked Mr Nixon as much as *Doors* would have us believe.

No prizes either for identifying Cliff Robertson's portrayal of William Morton as the former CIA director, Mr Richardson Helms, whose people here felt the characterization

to be just about right, but friends of Mr Helms objected to the suggestion that he had ever indulged in presidential blackmail.

Equally easy to pin down is Harold Gould's portrayal of Dr Carl Tessler, the former academic and became President Nixon's chief foreign affairs adviser. Dr Henry Kissinger's views, on the fictional counterpart have never been made public, but at least Carl Tessler is a fairly sympathetic character in contrast to most of the others in *Doors*.

Former colleagues of Mr H. R. Haldeman, the powerful chief of staff to President Nixon, were not at all pleased with Mr Vaughn's screen portrayal of Frank Felt, a power-crazed monster responsible for virtually every plot hatched at the White House.

Mr Herb Klein, communications director at the White House for nearly six years during Mr Nixon's presidency, was quoted as saying: "He (Mr Haldeman) was a tough guy who ran a tight ship, but he was a real mensch."

In the television serial, the fictional version of Mr Klein, Bob Bailey (played by Barry Nelson) is mislabeled as the White House press secretary, a post held by Fishery for failing to be as unscrupulous as his boss wanted.

His fictional successor, Hank Ferris, is clearly meant to be the real-life figure of Tony Blair's portrayal of young Adam Carter, who was White House press spokesman. But journalists who knew Mr Ziegler have never accused him of being as insipid as the unbelievably stupid Ferris. After *Doors* was shown here in the autumn, Mr Ziegler said he was comfortable in his own mind that he was not that character.

Closer to a real-life figure is Tony Blair's portrayal of young Adam Carter, who was White House press spokesman. But journalists who knew Mr Ziegler have never accused him of being as insipid as the unbelievably stupid Ferris. After *Doors* was shown here in the autumn, Mr Ziegler said he was comfortable in his own mind that he was not that character.

Most of the women portrayed in the fictional account, such as Sally Whalen (Stephanie Powers), William Morton's girl friend, do not seem to have been based on any real-life counterparts in real life.

# Leader of pro-Moscow party in India quits

From Kuldip Nayyar  
Delhi, Dec 30

Mr S. A. Dange, chairman of the pro-Soviet Communist Party of India, has resigned from the post because the party's National Council last week openly condemned the CPI's support of the emergency rule of Mrs Gandhi.

Under the guidance of Mr Dange, the CPI supported the imposition of the emergency in June 1975 and endorsed the policies of the former Prime Minister.

Mr Dange, a founder member of the party in 1922, is regarded as very close to Moscow.

After reading out Mr Dange's resignation telegram, Mr R. Rajawade Rao, the CPI's general secretary, today told reporters that the party's new line was approved by all but two of the 114 members of the National Council.

The statement, admitting that the CPI's support for Mrs Gandhi's emergency rule was wrong, came at a bad time for the former Prime Minister.

The CPI has been an ardent supporter of Mrs Gandhi since 1969, when there was a split in the ruling Congress Party and several older politicians, including Mr Morarji Desai, then Deputy Prime Minister, left to form a splinter Congress Party.

The assumption of the CPI has been that Mrs Gandhi pursued progressive policies and that therefore she merited full support by the Communists.

During the emergency, Mrs Gandhi's personal role annoyed the Communist rank and file but Mr Dange and other party leaders kept the resentment bottled up.

Since the lifting of the emergency, CPI members have been more vocal. Hence the condemnation of the emergency rule and Mrs Gandhi's role in it.

The withdrawal of Communist support for Mrs Gandhi comes at a time when she is trying to marshal her forces within her own splinter Congress Party. She has few adherents before and most of the party's leaders are opposed to her. The convention which she has convened for Sunday may be thinly attended because the CPI has asked its members to boycott it.



President Carter stands silent after laying a wreath at the memorial to the dead in the Old Ghetto of Warsaw.

# President Carter sets out to appeal to Polish nationalism

Warsaw, Dec 30.—President Carter today debated East-West issues at the Polish Parliament building.

At the Polish Parliament building, Mr Carter, the President of the United States, addressed a crowd of about 10,000 people. He spoke for about 10 minutes, and then he was greeted by shouts of "long live Carter".

His tour of three national memorials, including a brief stop at the Old Jewish ghetto, was carefully planned by American diplomats to emphasize American interest in Poland's national independence.

Officials said Mr Carter was expressing his close personal concern over human rights in Eastern Europe at a three-hour private meeting with Mr Gierk, mostly over lunch. It was Mr Carter's first meeting with the East European political leader.

They were discussing a broad range of issues, both international and matters of direct Polish-American interest, officials said.

Mr Carter hopes Poland can play a more active role in advancing East-West relations. He also wants Mr Gierk to set an example on human rights by lifting restrictions on Poles seeking to join families in the United States.

Mr Carter stayed late in his palace residence after his arrival last night at the start of a three-day visit to Poland. He spent 60 minutes on a tour of memorial sites before leaving for the Polish Parliament building.

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because of their past struggles against the Russian as well as Nazi occupiers. The Polish Government tried to dissuade Mr Carter from making the visit, but he insisted, American sources said.

In another unusual gesture, Mrs Carter and Mr Zbigniew Brzezinski, the President's national security adviser, who was born in Poland, called on Cardinal Wyszyński, the Roman Catholic Primate, for a 20-minute talk on social and religious problems.

The Cardinal gave Mrs Carter a rosary and handed Mr Brzezinski a rosary for his octogenarian mother who lives in Canada. The White House said only Mr Brzezinski had planned to make the call, but Mrs Carter decided to go also.

Mrs Carter also visited Warsaw's reconstructed Old Town. The Old Town contains nearly a thousand historic buildings, most of which were flattened in the Second World War.

Mr Gierk told a group of American journalists that Poland would not draw Poland away from its links with the Soviet Union.

He expected the visit to strengthen ties of friendship and cooperation between his country and the United States, however.

"We want to sell more than vodka and big game," he said. "If you do not buy from us, we will not sell to you."

At each memorial, the president stepped briefly into the crowd to shake hands.

He was greeted by deep national significance for Poles

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# South Africa to attend new talks on Namibia

From Nicholas Ashford  
Johannesburg, Dec 30

South Africa has accepted an invitation from the five Western members of the United Nations Security Council to attend talks in New York next month in a further attempt to find an independence formula for Namibia (South-West Africa).

The nationalist South-West Africa People's Organization (Swapo) has been invited for talks in New York at the same time. Diplomatic sources said today that Swapo and South Africa would meet each other across a conference table because of South Africa's refusal to negotiate directly with the nationalist movement.

It is hoped that, if the talks progress satisfactorily, the two sides may be brought face to face eventually. Swapo has not indicated whether it will take up the invitation to go to New York.

Mr R. F. Botha, the Foreign Minister, said today that the discussions would be a continuation of the talks held earlier this year in Cape Town and Pretoria between the South African Government and the Western powers—Britain, the United States, France, West Germany and Canada.

South Africa, he said, was always prepared to talk to the five.

It is understood that the invitation to New York was delivered on Wednesday when ambassadors from the Western nations held talks at the Foreign Ministry in Pretoria. The invitation was discussed at a meeting held yesterday at Oubosstrand, the holiday home of Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister, which was attended by General Magnus Malan, Chief of the Defence Force, Mr P. W. Botha, the Defence Minister, and Mr R. F. Botha.

The latest move by the Western powers is basically a revival of a proposal first made in August just before a round of talks between them and Swapo in New York. It followed a strained meeting with Swapo in Lusaka at which the nationalist organization suggested direct talks with the South Africans rather than using the Western group as an intermediary.

Then, as now, the main stumbling block was the question of the withdrawal of South African troops from the territory during the election period that would precede independence. At that time, according to Swapo sources, the South Africans offered to reduce the number of troops from 4,000 to 3,000 the number which would remain in the territory. These would be balanced by a United Nations force of about 3,000 men.

Swapo insisted, however, that all South African troops should be withdrawn before it would take part in elections. The South Africans have refused to accept this, arguing that it would allow Swapo to overrun the territory before the elections and influence the result. For their part, the Western powers are insistent that Swapo must take part in any elections that are held if it is to achieve international recognition.

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Swapo insisted, however, that all South African troops should be withdrawn before it would take part in elections. The South Africans have refused to accept this, arguing that it would allow Swapo to overrun the territory before the elections and influence the result. For their part, the Western powers are insistent that Swapo must take part in any elections that are held if it is to achieve international recognition.

The invitation was discussed at a meeting held yesterday at Oubosstrand, the holiday home of Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister, which was attended by General Magnus Malan, Chief of the Defence Force, Mr P. W. Botha, the Defence Minister, and Mr R. F. Botha.

The latest move by the Western powers is basically a revival of a proposal first made in August just before a round of talks between them and Swapo in New York. It followed a strained meeting with Swapo in Lusaka at which the nationalist organization suggested direct talks with the South Africans rather than using the Western group as an intermediary.

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# Dispute over journalists' links with secret agents

From Our Own Correspondent  
Washington, Dec 30

Three former American ambassadors have a dispute over how far journalists should cooperate with intelligence agencies.

As a congressional hearing here continued to take testimony about the relationship between the news media and the Central Intelligence Agency, Mr William Porter, United States Ambassador to South Vietnam from 1965 to 1967, said he believed the first responsibility of an American journalist working abroad was to his government rather than his newspaper. This should be the case even if it meant planting false stories in the press or other means of deception.

Mr Porter said he was "absolutely against" anything that hampered the work of the CIA, including recent agency regulations that ban it from making payments for services rendered by journalists.

In view of such opposition, it is not now known if the plebiscite will go ahead. If it does, it will ask all Chileans over 18 to answer yes or no to the question: "Are you in favour of the present regime or the United Nations resolution?"

The Socialist Party of Chile has called the proposal "another farce of the fascist dictatorship", while the Christian Democrats asked all Chileans to vote against the Government.

In a strongly-worded declaration, the Christian Democrats said a referendum held "while the country is still under a state of siege and while personal and press freedoms are still under restriction, lacks the minimal guarantees to give it validity."

The entire voting procedure would be in the hands of government officials, while the question to be posed "confuses the concepts of country and government," the party said. It expected all Chileans would be forced to vote they should register their protest by voting no.

General Gustavo Leigh, the Air Force commander, said President Pinochet had overruled the members of the junta by signing the law.

The armed forces resented the fact "that their honour and prestige" would be endangered "by having to exert surveillance over a plebiscite which by its very nature is bound to give rise to suspicion and misinterpretations" in Chile and abroad, General Leigh said.

Chess chiefs put off decision on Korchnoi

Be'grade, Dec 30.—The organizers of the Korchnoi-Spassky chess match today considered Viktor Korchnoi's threat to withdraw from the 20-game series unless spectators are excluded. They put off a decision and will meet again tomorrow.

There was no play today. Korchnoi having exercised his right to postpone the fourteenth game. He says he will play on Monday, but only if his conditions are met.

Korchnoi leads 7½-5½ in the match to decide who will challenge Anatoly Karpov, the world champion, next year. Spassky has won the last three games.

UPI.

# Tito pledge to present course

Belgrade, Dec 30.—President Tito said today that the Yugoslav people in his leadership made him determined to continue on the present road, despite all difficulties.

He made the statement in his traditional New Year's message. "I have been impressed with the breadth and manner in which working people of all nations and nationalities of our country have expressed their solidarity with the people of Yugoslavia during the past jubilee year," he said.

There was no alternative to East-West détente, he added.—AP and Reuter.

# E German opposition group draws up a manifesto

From Gretel Spitzer  
Berlin, Dec 30

The existence of a Communist opposition in East Germany was reported by the news magazine *Der Spiegel* today. It publishes a manifesto drawn up, it claims, by the "Federation of Democratic Communists of Germany".

This federation, according to the magazine, was formed by medium and upper level functionaries of the ruling party organized in small groups and working on a conspiratorial basis.

In its manifesto, the opposition group within the ruling Socialist Unity (Communist) Party opposes the Soviet system in East Germany; the one-party dictatorship; and the centralism of party, state and society.

It demands a plurality of political parties; an independent judiciary; a convertible East German currency; and the introduction of currency valid in both German states.

Further demands include the "expulsion" of East German millionaires; the elimination of the party bureaucracy; and free travel between the two German states.

# King Husain flies into Tehran to see president

Teheran, Dec 30.—King Husain of Jordan arrived here today for talks with President Carter.

The Jordanian King is expected to meet with the President at the airport by the Shah. Mr Carter is due in Tehran tomorrow from Warsaw on the next stage of his nine-day tour and will meet King Husain on Sunday before flying to Delhi.

The king will also have talks with the Shah.

Political sources in Amman said President Carter would probably seek King Husain's views on the Middle East peace plan put forward by Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister.

Jordan has already said that Mr Begin's proposals are unacceptable.

The Israeli peace plan, incorporating a continued military presence on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, is seen in Amman as seeking to tighten Israel's control on the West Bank. It has already been rejected by all the countries bordering the Jewish state.

In Teheran, President Carter will also find a message asking him to help Somalia in the war in the Horn of Africa with Ethiopia. It was left to him with the Shah by President Barre of Somalia when he visited Teheran earlier this week.—Reuter.

# New faces join Soviet dissidents as fast as the old ones disappear

From David K. Shipley  
Moscow, Dec 30

The small Soviet human rights movement, which has attracted much attention throughout the world though it is probably unrepresentative of any broadly held opinion, is at its lowest point in years after a campaign of arrests, threats and forced exile directed against most of its prominent leaders. Its momentum has been curbed, its political dexterity undermined and its communications network in the Soviet Union badly disrupted.

Yet new people have joined almost as fast as the old have disappeared. Inexperienced for the most part and less dynamic than the previous generation, they have positions of less stature in this supremely status-conscious society, so they may be somewhat less able to generate respect than their predecessors.

But the unending appearance of new names on open letters and of new faces at press conferences supports the movement's contention that the movement cannot be pronounced dead.

One part of the movement has gone to the West, another to the East, and fewer of us might find a Jew and talk to him about faith in Jesus and might give more incentives.

The Rev Henry Knight, an Anglican, said that the loose wording of the law would make it possible for a person to be brought to court for an innocent act of charity by which he helped someone who was in need of help.

The law does not mention Christian missionaries, but the explanatory note by Rabbi Y. M. Abramowitz, its sponsor, said the measure was designed to curb Christian missionaries. He alleged that they had offered

huge sums of money and other economic benefits to "convert the souls" of the poor.

In the message to Mr Begin, the Christian Council said: "None of the Christian communities in the country known to us engages in such practices." But at a press conference, Canon Na'am Ateek, of the Evangelical Episcopal Church in Haifa, the council chairman, said: "Tourists might find a Jew and talk to him about faith in Jesus and might give more incentives."

According to records here,

Not until the mid-1960s, near the end of a brief, tentative trend towards liberalisation, did the human rights movement as it is now known spring up. It is a movement with a constantly changing cast, one almost wholly concerned with ad hoc statements on specific cases rather than with proposals for fundamental change or visions of a new political order.

When there has been philosophical discussion it has tended to divide the dissidents by accentuating their differences.

What began to happen a year and a half ago, and what apparently provoked one of the most carefully executed drives against dissidents, was an unprecedented mobilisation of the group known as the "Jews seeking emigration, Russian and ethnic nationalists and, to a lesser extent, religious believers."

The catalyst was the accord signed at Moscow in August, 1975, by the United States, Soviet Union and 33 European states. The pace of dissident activity quickened.

Dr Yuri Orlov, a physicist who headed



# Saturday Review

## The Aircraftsman and the Sage



T. E. Lawrence



Thomas Hardy

by H Montgomery Hyde

Thomas Hardy, OM, poet and novelist, was born in the Dorsetshire village of Stinsford on June 2, 1840, and died 50 years ago at Max Gate, his home in Dorchester, on January 11, 1928. His remains were cremated after his heart had been removed for separate burial at Stinsford. Meanwhile a group of his friends peti-

tioned the Dean of Westminster that he should be accorded a public funeral in the Abbey and that his ashes should be laid to rest in Poets' Corner. This was agreed, and it was officially announced that the funeral would take place on Monday, January 16.

There were 10 pallbearers who took up their positions on either side of the catafalque at the beginning of

the service, as I well remember, since I had managed to get into the Abbey for the occasion. They were led by the then Prime Minister, Stanley Baldwin, and the Leader of the Opposition, Ramsay MacDonald; they were followed in pairs by Rudyard Kipling, Sir James Barrie, George Bernard Shaw, John Galsworthy, Sir Edmund Gosse and A. E. Housman, while A. B. Ramsay,

Master of Magdalene, Cambridge, and the Rev Dr E. M. Walker, Provost of Queen's, Oxford, representing the colleges of which Hardy had been an Honorary Fellow, brought up the rear.

Some years later, after I had gone up to Oxford, I mentioned to Dr Walker that I had been at the service in the Abbey and had sat beside Mrs Charlotte Shaw. The Provost thereupon told me that when he

arrived in the sacristy he found two pallbearers already there, Rudyard Kipling and Bernard Shaw. They were looking out of opposite windows and neither spoke to the other. Dr Walker then discovered that they had never met before, and so it fell to this head of an Oxford college to introduce the two most controversial if not most distinguished literary figures of the time to each other.

One notable absentee from Hardy's funeral was T. E. Lawrence, a close friend of Hardy towards the end of his life. As soon as Charlotte Shaw and her husband got back to their flat in Whitehall Court after the service, she sat down and wrote a long letter to Lawrence, then serving as Aircraftsman T. E. Shaw in India, giving him her impressions of the occasion while they were fresh in her mind.

During the last 10 years of his life, apart from old friends, Hardy received very few visitors. "I think I would rather strangers (even great admirers) did not come to see him now," Mrs Hardy wrote to Sydney Cockerell, her husband's literary executor. An exception was T. E. Lawrence, who arrived at the Royal Tank Corps depot at Bovington Camp as Private T. E. Shaw in March, 1923. Before leaving London for Bovington, Lawrence had asked his friend and future biographer Robert Graves if he would give him an introduction to the sage of Max Gate. "Do you think old Hardy would let me look at him?" he wrote to Graves. "He's a poor poet and a fair novelist, in my judgment, and it would give me a feeling of another milestone passed if I might meet him. Yet to blow in on him in khaki would not be an introduction... What are my hopes?"

Graves immediately wrote to Hardy who replied that Lawrence would be very welcome at his house in Dorchester. "I saw Hardy yesterday," paid for seeing him too, for it meant curbing a parade," Lawrence wrote on March 30, 1923. "However, it was worth it, and I'm going down again, if ever he asks me... A very sensitive little man; faded now, with hope yet that mankind will give up warfare. He felt incredibly old to me." (He was 83 then). Lawrence returned to Max Gate the following week, and until he got back to the

Air Force and was posted to Cranwell two and a half years later, he saw Hardy, and his wife regularly, either at Max Gate or at Clouds Hill, the cottage a mile or so across the Great Heath ("Egdon Heath" in Hardy's Wessex stories) from Bovington Camp, which he first rented for 2s 6d a week and later bought for £450. The cottage had been built in 1808, and it was here that Lawrence met Lawrence. Indeed half a century before, when Hardy had been working on the novel, he had drawn a map of the Egdon Heath area (now in the Dorset County Museum) in which Miniver and the cottage are clearly marked.

"A tiny brick cottage, with old tiled roof, very high pitched" was how Lawrence described Clouds Hill at the time. "It stands in a thicket of laurel and rhododendron, with oak trees and a huge box stretching over its roof. Dump? Yes: for the cottage dates from pre-damp course days, and the trees drop great raindrops on the roof after each storm. They patter across the tiles like the first notes of the Fifth Symphony."

When he visited the cottage, Hardy was struck by the two Greek words which Lawrence had inscribed over the front door and which he had taken from a tale by Herodotus expressing indifference to worldly advancement. Lawrence freely translated them as "Why worry?" explaining: "It means that nothing in Clouds Hill is to be a care upon its habitation."

On one occasion Lawrence invented an excuse to come over to Max Gate on his motorcycle. He had copies of the thin paper editions of *The Hardy's Poems* and *The Dynasts*, which he was anxious to show Hardy should autograph.

"I know it's a vulgar desire," he wrote in the note expressing this request, "but I live in vulgar company; and they would be very precious possessions." Hardy obligingly inscribed the latter volume: "Colonel Lawrence from Thomas Hardy" underneath which the recipient wrote characteristically on his return to Bovington: "To T. E. Shaw for his comfort in camp from Lawrence." The inscribed copy of *The Dynasts* is still preserved in the library at Clouds Hill, which Shaw's youngest brother Professor A. W. Lawrence presented with its contents to the National Trust in 1938.

Six months after he had first met Hardy and when he had got to know him, Lawrence wrote again to Robert Graves from Bovington expressing his gratitude for the introduction and how much he appreciated getting away from the camp, which he loathed, to the atmosphere of the Hardy's home. For the ticket which gained me access to T.H. I'm grateful to you—probably will be grateful always. Max Gate is a place apart; and I feel it all the more poignantly for the contrast of life in this beautiful house. It is strange to pass from the noise and thoughtfulness of sergeants' company into a peace so secure that it is not even Mrs Hardy's sea-cups rattle on the tray; and from a barracks of hollow senseless hustle to the cheerful calm of T.H. thinking about us. If I were in his place I would never wish to die: or even to wish other men dead. The peace which can be felt, and is nearly unbearable. How envious such an old age is.

However, here is enough to try to write about something which is so precious that I grudge writing about it. T.H. is an experience that a man must keep to himself. The Hardy's invited Lawrence to spend his first Christmas at Bovington with them at Max Gate. But he refused. ("It's not good to be happy too often.") Anyhow he had volunteered for such jobs

station, since *Revolt in the Desert*, the abridged version of *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, had been accepted for publication and he wished to avoid the embarrassment of the inevitable publicity which it was bound to attract to himself if he were in England when it appeared.

After some delay his transfer to India was approved and he sailed for Karachi at the end of 1926. He spent his embarkation leave at Clouds Hill and on this occasion he cried over to Dorchester to say goodbye to the Hardy's. "Hardy was most affected by this parting," wrote Florence Hardy afterwards. "He accompanied Lawrence to the front door of the house, as he wished to see Lawrence drive off. But apparently the machine was difficult to start and thinking that he might have to wait some time Hardy went back into the house to fetch a shawl to wrap round him. "Returning a few moments later, Hardy was gripped that he had not seen the actual departure, and found nearly all the places filled up, at got a seat almost in the middle of the south transept. The burial was at the south end of the south transept. You will see by the cuttings that GBS was a pallbearer. He walked to pair with Mr Galsworthy, but, as the catafalque was high and great they were completely separated from one another. It seemed absurd to have an immense Mer and a great and splendid pall, while, embroidered with royal crowns and many other emblems, to enclose one small casket, but it made its effect. The service was very beautifully sung, and I have never heard anything better read than the lesson. "Let us now praise famous men." I had no idea how fine the organ is, and it was almost perfectly played. When the procession came down the south transept they all

passed quite near me. In fact it is still 14 years short of a decent score at cricket."

While he was in India Lawrence kept in touch with the Hardy's by letter, but there was little about his life in camp (which he never left) that he felt would be of interest to them. Instead he dwelt upon their little domestic troubles at Max Gate such as the loss of their old dog "Wessex" who had to be put down. In this connection he remarked that the killing of animals just because they were ill or old was not a medicine human beings applied to their own species in a more which suggested that it might not be such a bad thing if they did.

Lawrence liked "Wessex", and without him he felt that Max Gate would not be quite right now. "He had been just a year in the RAF Depot in Karachi when he heard the news that 'the poor old beast' had been followed into eternity by his master. Charlotte Shaw's description of Hardy's funeral, which she wrote to Lawrence, is published in full here for the first time from the original in the Bernard Shaw Papers in the British Library.

And now I have come from the burial of Thomas Hardy's ashes in the Abbey. I went 35 minutes early and found nearly all the places filled up, at got a seat almost in the middle of the south transept. The burial was at the south end of the south transept. You will see by the cuttings that GBS was a pallbearer. He walked to pair with Mr Galsworthy, but, as the catafalque was high and great they were completely separated from one another. It seemed absurd to have an immense Mer and a great and splendid pall, while, embroidered with royal crowns and many other emblems, to enclose one small casket, but it made its effect. The service was very beautifully sung, and I have never heard anything better read than the lesson. "Let us now praise famous men." I had no idea how fine the organ is, and it was almost perfectly played. When the procession came down the south transept they all

"So Kipling looked sinister, did he?" commented Lawrence when he got Charlotte Shaw's letter. "The silly little man annoyed me by smugly refusing to be decent to old T.H. whom he did quite a lot for when he first came to London, but whom he dropped after *Jude the Obscure*. So he was probably under Baldwin's dress. Baldwin I am sure is very good." Lawrence had told the Hardy's how the Prime Minister, who was a first cousin of Kipling, had earned his (Lawrence's) gratitude by helping him to get back to the RAF when he overruled the Air Minister Sir Samuel Hoare's veto after Hoare had turned down Lawrence's application for readmission to the ranks. Lawrence was lying on his bed in the Karachi depot camp on the Sunday after Hardy's death listening to Beethoven's last quartet on his gramophone when one of the airman came in with the news. "We finished the quarter, because all at once it felt like him," Lawrence wrote the same day to Florence Hardy. "I am well off, having known him: you have given so much of your own life to a service of self-sacrifice... T.H. was infinitely bigger than the man who died three days back—and you were one of the architects. In the days since *The Dynasts* the Hardy of stress had faded, and T.H. took his unchallenged, unchallengeable place... He is secure." He still is 50 years later.

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# Travel Destination 1978



The lure of the Greek islands: fishing boats tug at their moorings in Symi harbour.

Time, now, to shag off the old year and welcome the new. To forego old habits and make new resolutions. To put away old stories and turn over new leaves. Time, if you are a travel junkie, to set aside the adjectives and try to play the role of seer. What does 1978 have in store? I can make some guesses that should not fall too short of the mark. Some generalizations and some specific observations.

More people will take holidays abroad, as they find themselves with the necessary cash to spare and in this respect the holiday trade will benefit as will other mop-up of "disposable income". Indeed, the holiday market is likely to increase in 1978 and in 1979 as controls are relaxed. The tour companies have cautiously expanded their programmes in anticipation and spent in optimistic mood. With a couple of exceptions, there are no cash discount offers to encourage early bookings—certainly nothing like the near-panic which gripped the travel trade 12 months ago. The tour operators seemed prepared to live with the fact that holiday bookings are being made later.

There has been a shortage of travel trade of a shortage of charter flight seats (a figure of 350,000 short has been described as conservative) and this could mean the nonappearance or late appearance of programmes like the Thomson "Wanderer" holidays. Introduced as a means of "topping up" underused flights, they are not likely to be needed in 1978.

Though prospects look pleasing there are some problems areas—problems for the travel trade, that is, and not for us on the buying side of the brochures. Indeed, we stand to benefit.

In the first place, the trade's carefully-formulated protection scheme has been whittled away by the Restrictive Practices Act and the legislation which will apply from April 1. It forbids the kind of price maintenance and trading methods at present practised and could bring about discounting of package holidays. Though tour companies and travel agents have great play of their happy business relationship and insist that nobody will upset trading agreements, it is likely that tour companies will turn a blind eye to discounting if not actively encourage some agents by supplying them with suitably low-priced "stock". (It must be the same way as airlines—loudly protesting their innocence—dump cut price tickets on to the bucket shop market.)

Already there are signs that "unproductive" agents are being cut off the tour companies' lists as they clear the decks for this kind of action. I fear that 1978 is not going to

be a good year for your friendly neighbourhood travel agent.

What also affects the 1978 market is the appearance of the Danish company Tjærborg, about whom I wrote in November. Its newspaper and television advertising campaign begins within a day or two and will rock the price maintenance boat to the point of capsizing, as well as infuriate the aforementioned travel agents.

Tjærborg is selling package holidays to Spain, Italy, Greece, Yugoslavia, Norway and Denmark at prices which undercut its rivals by an average of 18 per cent. Savings of up to 58 per cent are available on holidays in the low season. And the company sells direct to the public with the slogan "cut the cost by cutting out the travel agent."

It is not so much the size of the Tjærborg invasion—a mere 23,000 holidays, but with

ample room for expansion—that upsets the travel trade, as the fact that the direct sale benefit is being exploited so blatantly. Tjærborg, say publicly what other companies must privately, and those other companies will not be slow to use the Danes as an excuse for more aggressive direct selling—or to justify the discount selling through selected agents I mentioned earlier.

When the feathers have stopped flying, what will all this mean for us, the customers? It will mean the chance to shop around for the best price for our chosen holiday, just as we do with other products. And it will mean that, to survive, travel agents will have to learn almost foreign skills. The skills they practised before the package holiday came along. The ability to create a tailor made holiday for those who wish to buy it could prove to be their salvation.

So much for the general scene. I have also been gathering my thoughts about specific developments, some of which I hope to mention more fully in coming weeks. It goes almost without saying that the advent of Skytrain to New York has revolutionized the air travel scene and there is little doubt that an increased service next summer will further benefit transatlantic travellers. So, too, will the proposed Skytrain service to Los Angeles, for I do not believe that our administrators (even our administrators) are foolish enough to try the same stalling and destructive tactics on Mr F. A. Laker that left them with egg on their faces in 1977.

Tied in with this thought, and with the success of Advance Booking Charter and Advance Purchase Excursion fares to the USA and Canada, I foresee a great increase in holiday traffic to these two countries. (And a

great opportunity for the depressed travel agent to sell "add on" holiday arrangements that may be linked to the air fares.)

There is talk—to be fair, there is always talk—of the introduction of ABC and APEX fares within Europe, but I doubt if 1978 will see anything more than a slight move in that direction. However, APEX fares are to be introduced between Britain and Ireland from April 1. A London-Dublin APEX return of £24 on the ordinary return fare, and similar savings will be available from Manchester, Leeds and Bradford, Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Liverpool.

As for particular destinations which I believe may succeed in 1978, I think they are best dealt with in more detail in coming weeks—the Greek islands, the south of Italy and certain long haul holiday areas being in my

mind. I regard it as a certainty that cut price air tickets will continue to be sold (many via the back page of this newspaper) despite the protestations of innocence and anger from the airlines, and their efforts to implement "Operation Clean Up". I think the Association of British Travel Agents may start to fall apart, and I rather hope that the International Air Transport Association will follow suit.

What I do not know is which transatlantic airline will be forced into buying a Concorde to compete with British Airways and Air France. I feel certain that some airline will have to, though a great deal of American pride would have to be swallowed for it to be one of them.

Whatever happens in 1978, may I wish you a good year—and a good holiday.

John Carter

## Drink Tips for the tippler

There are so many accurate reference books on wines and spirits today that it is rather able how many old wives' tales still persist. People hold to so many wholly erroneous ideas about what certain wines and spirits are, how they got their names and how they should be served, that it may amuse you to try to distinguish between the true and the false in the following statements.

People are able to visit vineyards and are told a great deal at source, such as that, in Spain, sherry is not fortified at all (1), that the curious name "Blanc Fumé" for the wines of Pouilly for the Loire is because their flavour is slightly smoky (2) and that, in Alsace, an odd alcohol blend is called from the holly, which is made "houx" (3). There is also the tradition that the grey of sherry known as "amontillado" gets its name because,

originally, it reminded drinkers of the wines of Montilla (4). Visitors to Germany will see that the Mosel wines are bottled in green glass, Rhine wines in brown and the best Franconian wines in the squat green "bottle" (5) but they may not realise that the tallest of all tapering bottles is the "Boute d'Alsace" (6) and those travelling in Champagne are probably unaware that the pressure behind a cork of the supreme sparkling wine is equivalent to that in the tyre of a double-decker bus (7). In Champagne, too, they may be offered the odd drink, ratafia, which gets its name because it was an eighteenth-century fashionable tipple with ratafia biscuits (8).

Scots have always naturally drunk quantities of the claret, Chateau Montrose, because of its former association with the great Marquis of Montrose, champion of the Stuart cause

(9) and they also enjoy the white wine of Alsace which until recently belonged to the firm producing White Horse whisky (10). However, Scots visiting the oyster beds in the Gironde or anywhere else are careful never to drink whisky with them, as the combination of oysters and Scotch can result in severe food poisoning (11), and meals that include both Champagne and port have the same result (12). It is also wise to remember that the excellent pick-me-up and digestive, Fernet Branca, possesses aphrodisiac properties (13) and that, if you are unfortunate in 1978 to suffer from a hangover by drinking too much ouzo, the remedy is quantities of yoghurt (14).

But you will not risk any unpleasant after-effects if you remember that, in general, white wine is weaker than red (15), that vin rosé is weaker than either (16), and that you

nullify the effect of the alcohol in Champagne if you use a suitable stick to take the bubbles out (17).

Conventions about serving wine are usually simply the ways in which it is likely to taste at its best, but sometimes these have odd historical associations. The Jacobites used to toast the Stuart king "over the water"—passing their glasses across the water jug or bowl—in clear (18), but the Whigs and followers of "Duch William" preferred port (19), which they circulated from right to left, so that the guest of honour had the first taste of the port (20). This tradition of the Royal Toast being drunk in port, the company standing, was altered for the Royal Navy, when George III, dining aboard, bumped his head when going to reply, so that the Navy now sit to honour the Toast (21). However, the ceremony of the Lov-

ing Cup, observed at certain requests to this day, involves three people standing up, the one drinking, the one being toasted—and one standing with his or her back to the person drinking, so as to prevent a recurrence of a medieval assassination at a feast when the drinker, with both hands on the handles of the cup, was stabbed in the back (22).

1. False. All sherry is fortified, although some may only have a light fortification and some may have an additional fortification before being shipped.

2. False. "Blanc Fumé" is the local name for the Sauvignon grape. 3: True. 4: True. 5: True. 6: True. 7: True. 8: False. The name "ratafia" comes from the Latin phrase "ut rosa fiat", used to commend a legal instrument after which the parties would share a drink. 9: False. The name Montrose has nothing to do

with Scotland, probably deriving from the heather which used to cover the little hill—"Mont rose"—of the property. 10: False. Chateau Blanc is a red wine, nothing to do with a whisky firm. 11: False. 12: False. 13: False—although many Italians believe it to be true. 14: True—water will increase the action of the ouzo, yoghurt will counteract it. 15: Both false. 16: False. 17: False. The swizzle stick merely removes bubbles that it has taken time and skill to put there—it use flattens the wine and has no effect on the alcoholic content. 18: True. 19: True. 20: False. Port is traditionally circulated from left to right, but the host is allowed a "backhand" so as to serve the guest on his right. 21: True. 22: True.

Pamela Vandyke Price

## Gardening

# Don't catch a cold this year

All in all, 1977 was a good gardening year—rain at the right times, and in the right amounts, is the gardener's friend and in the year gone by we had rain pretty well whenever we wanted it. As a result, our annual flowers, summer and autumn vegetables and soft fruits flourished.

In many districts apples and pears performed poorly. There were plenty of flower buds but no floral parts inside. Presumably the drought last summer caused many trees not to perform normally at the time buds were forming in July and August. By contrast, soft fruits did very well and there has been a splendid show of berries of all kinds on hollies, cotoneasters, pyracanthas and the like. This I assume was due to plenty of rain just after the berries had set which saved them from dropping off and which swelled them generously.

If there is a lesson from 1977's weather it is to remind us of the importance of timely watering with heavy fruits for example we should apply the water if required as soon as the fruits have set and started to swell.

It was indeed fortuitous that we had such regular and generous rains after the 1976 drought. If we had not had a predominantly rainy year many plants that surprised us by surviving the drought might well not have done so.

All has not, however, been on the credit side. The Dutch elm disease continues to spread and it is now thought

that half the elms in England have died and now there is the threat to our beeches. In the United States when we were there in October, there was much sadness because of a disease that has killed large numbers of chestnut trees.

We missed the autumn colour in England but we caught it absolutely right in Canada, Virginia and in New York State. Indeed our friends said it was the most spectacular they could ever remember and we could hardly believe our eyes when we saw the richness of sunset and gold of oaks and maples, pecans, tulip trees and, of course, the dogwoods which never perform for us as they do in America. If only one could be sure that the autumn colour would be so spectacular and know exactly which weeks to go and see it, I am sure special autumn colour tours of the eastern states of America would be highly popular.

The Americans and Canadians we thought appreciated their trees even more than we do. To be honest one does get a little tired of the national Canadian emblem but one is lost in admiration for the imaginative tree plantings around Toronto and in Philadelphia, Virginia and Albany.

In Philadelphia many streets are named after trees and in Albany they must have been very old conscious at some time, because they have Eagle, Swan, Dove, Quail, Robin and Partridge Streets, also Elk and Beaver.

It certainly does seem rather more attractive to name streets after plants or birds than after some local character with very often a less than euphonious name. In England I was glad to discover the other day that on one of the new estates many streets are named after trees.

Now we must turn our thoughts towards 1978. We must remember the old saying: "As days lengthen, so cold strengthens". So we should check on our precautions against cold spells, always fear the last week or 10 days of January as so often a cold spell may begin then.

As to the prospects of a fine show of blossoms in the coming spring and summer it seems that these are good. Ornamental trees and shrubs also fruit trees have made a lot of new growth and formed good flower buds. Now we must hope for a kind spring—not too far to bring flowers out too early and without nasty late frosts at flowering time.

It is interesting to compare the soil temperature at Wisley in Surrey this year and last. On Christmas day 1976 they were: at 10cms (approx 1ft) 1°C (34°F); in 1977, 6.6°C (45°F). At 100cms (approx 3ft) they were 6.1°C (43°F); in 1977, 8.2°C (46.5°F). At least we start the New Year with a rather more healthy reserve of heat in the soil than we did last year.

I am afraid I have not yet been able to adjust to today's prices, transport costs or modern marketing methods. I still

tend to remember the days when a "farmer's ordinary" lunch in the pub cost half a crown. In the not so old days we would need for the year in the way of garden sundries at the same time as we ordered our seeds in January—the string, labels, ropes and all the other bits and pieces we need to keep a garden going.

But nowadays carriage costs are frightening and we tend to live from hand to mouth as regards these items, buying them as we need them from the hardware shop or garden centre. This may save postage but not necessarily time or temper because it is infuriating to start a job say on a Saturday afternoon and then find you have run out of the bits and pieces you need.

If you can compile a list of your needs for the ensuing season, and even better combine your order with that of a neighbour it makes sense to have the whole lot sent in one consignment. The best catalogue of garden tools, equipment and garden sundries generally that comes my way is that of Joseph Bentley Ltd, Barrow in Humber, South Humberside, DN19 7AQ. It runs to over 120 large pages and includes practically every item you could possibly need for the garden—apart, of course, from plants and seeds. The 1977-78 catalogue will be available in January.

Jobs for January.

Check snow and frost precautions. Make sure, sand, chinker ash, or salt are handy to put

on steps, paths or drives in case of a freeze up and slippery surfaces.

Check all items in store—fruit, corns, tubers, dahlias and the rest. Any showing signs of rotting remove at once.

Watch particularly for mice in frames and greenhouses and stores. Set traps with milk chocolate and melon seed. Last year the mice robbed my plantings in July 7's of broad bean seeds in a cold frame unmercifully. Then it occurred to me to bait a trap with a broad bean seed and we caught a mouse every night.

Cover rhubarb plants with straw, leaves or bracken, or even better put an old dust bin, a large box or tea chest over the plants and pack it round with a foot thick layer of leaves. In a month you should be pulling rhubarb.

Finish pruning fruit trees and apply a tar oil winter spray and while you are at it spray fences, posts and gates to control algae.

Bring bulbs indoors if you have had them planted in peat outdoors.

Set up seed potatoes to sprout in a light frost free place.

Send for seed catalogues. Those I have received so far are from the following firms. If you are interested please keep this list by you because in future articles I will be mentioning some of the better new varieties of flowers and

vegetables and the firms who offer them.

Buchers Selected Seeds. 60 Wickham Road, Shirley, Croydon CR9 8AG, Surrey.

Cranphorn Ltd, Cutton Mill, Chelmsford CM2 6PD, Essex.

Samuel Dobbie and Son Limited, Upper Mills, Langgollen, Clwyd LL20 8SD.

S. E. Marshall and Co Ltd, Regal Road, Wessanenham Lane, Wisbech, Cambs PE13 2RF.

The Scottish Seed House (Alexander & Brown), PO Box No 13, South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NY, Scotland.

Suttons Seeds Ltd, Hele Road, Torquay, Devon TQ2 7QJ.

Thompson & Morgan (Ipswich) Ltd, London Road, Ipswich IP3 0BA.

W. J. Unwin Ltd, Histon, Cambridge.

Roy Hay

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# Oxford, home of the immortals

from now on--if any of the American airlines will take them.

□ Professor A. W. Woodruff of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine is one of those who wish to impose severe restrictions on dogs by curtailing their admission to parks and "public places"--the latter a most expansive definition which can hardly be overestimated.

Much of the criticism stems, I suspect, from people who simply dislike dogs--though I am not accusing Professor Woodruff of any such prejudice.

It is a poor spirit. Dogs are an unfailing source of comfort and companionship to millions of homes. Of course they should be trained and controlled--as most of them are, in the hands of devoted owners sensitive to public sensibility. That is surely the only official regulation that need be carried.

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German of Muller's *Certain Variations in the Vocal Organ of the Passer* (that, having hitherto escaped notice, published in 1878: over the next 25 years sales figures of 40,000 concealed that 40 of these copies had been given away free. Wyttenbach's *Plutarch* was commissioned in 1788; but copy for the seventh and last volume of commentary was not received until 1820.

The *Media* remained in the Oxford Catalogue until 1956, notwithstanding that in the last 50 years of the nineteenth century it had not sold a single copy. But the prize for longevity goes to Willden's *Commentary on the Gospels*, published in an edition of 500 copies in 1716; and 1907. Oxford books tend to be immortal, at least in one sense of the word.

The first book printed in Oxford, the cause of this year's quinqucentenary celebrations, something of an embarrassment. It got both its author and date of publication wrong, a practice subsequently frowned upon by the fastidious perfectionists of the Clarendon Press. The book purports to be an exposition of the Apostles' Creed by St Jerome, dated 1468, that is some nine years before Caxton started printing in London. This would make the first book printed in England. Unfortunately, all but the



The strain of leaving his family, of making a new life in the West, above all of holding his own as a grandmaster—some of his games have shown that—has kept him from becoming too sure of himself. Some quarters may have been too much to bear.

Chess players have a more grueling physical and mental life than any other sportsmen. One can think of, be they tennis players, footballers, even boxers. They can never relax. Korchin's lead in their present match, at two games with seven left to play, suddenly looks fragile. It is a supreme test. The pity is that either of these great men, who have given the world so much pleasure, should have to lose.

**David Spanier**

Karpov always excepted. Yet in his last game he blundered a queen away. Well, we all do that, but grandmasters are supposed to know better.

Spassky, on the other hand, who is a temperamental player anyway, has been out of form. He was only qualified for the candidate's decided for the challenger because Bobby Fischer declined to play, as he has done ever since he originally won the world championship against Spassky at Reykjavik in 1972. That occasion, too, was fraught

Spassky is also an exile, having had the temerity to marry a French woman; but Korchin's disgrace, in Russian eyes, is not for forgivable: he denounced the system.

She confesses to being "frightened out of my life" by television, although she did announce the first night of the Proms on that medium this year. She was also involved in an afternoon women's magazine programme at one time.

So she prefers radio, although she is still passionately fond of the theatre which she wanted to make her career at one time. But she joined the BBC Overseas Service as a secretary and spotted a notice seeking an announcer. She got the job, and was one of those lucky things—and after spells of working through the night saw

her because of her fondness for music.

"I don't know a lot about it but I think the marvellous thing about Radio 3 is that you are always learning something new."

Pronunciation can be a problem but scripts are usually supplied two or three days beforehand and the announcers knock them into shape. They may be confronted by anything from Chinese to Icelandic.

So much music can give an announcer a migraine which is why Patricia Hughes likes the Smith Square series, each concert an hour long and just

about the right length so there is no temptation to fall asleep. She is mildly surprised by the fan-mail she gets but appreciates that there are an awful lot of lonely people listening in who only get the sound of the human voice from their radios.

Otherwise, she enjoys complete anonymity. "I love the privacy of radio—I like to walk down the street and nobody knows me." Just watch out for a basset hound—better still, listen for it at the next time Patricia Hughes is on the air.

**Kenneth Gosting**

books being bought, especially Oxford books, with exceedingly unwelcome disregard for actually selling books, the first horse-tugging this trotika has sometimes tended to win. There is a deeply rooted preference in Oxford for solid books, and a deeply rooted suspicion of pretentiousness. At times the *Delegatus*' idea of a good Oxford book has been a work of such impenetrable erudition that it remained on their shelves unthought and unread, but undoubtedly the last time in its subject was the Last Trump.

The wooden spoon in the contest of slow sellers is held by the translation from the

you have been so good as to make to them, and their regret is that they cannot be so stress-able to accept it." Reaction in such style is nearly as good as publication by a lesser house.

The Oxford University Press is our greatest stable of books. But its greatness resides not only in its great numbers of books, which have made the imprint a familiar badge of learning from China to Peru: it lies in the Press's persistence and noble belief that truth and scholarship, and good books matter more than profits.

**Philip Howard**

# Where

Ask your average New Year drinker what beverage he associates with the London borough of Islington and he will almost instantly suggest gin, for the spirit that London adopted from the Continent and made its own is still made there. Seventy years ago there would have been a different answer. At that time, to every publican, every licensed grocer, above all to every director of the big distilleries, Islington meant one thing—whisky. And the names of James Harris and Bramall, Islington's public and private Islington's medical officer of health and Islington's borough solicitor, were enough to induce apoplexy in the boardrooms of the liquor trade.

It all started with the Food and Drugs Act of 1875, the public's defence against food adulterers. Islington had been

# Gram test

which you could pump the mash in a continuous stream, the cold input to cool the vapours, vastly increasing capacity and reducing cost. After the repeal of the Corn Laws American maize came to be used as a cheaper base than malted barley for the production of the principal ingredient in what came to be called "grain spirit".

But Coffey's machine was too efficient as an alcohol producing device. Its product came to be known as "the blude spirit". By contrast, the old pot stills delivered a liquid that retained traces of the cereal in the mash and even the smoky taste that came from the peat that had dried the barley. In whisky as in life, it is these impurities that lend the flavour, and the purer spirit of the Coffey still had little of

licences in the borough to procure samples of what was being sold as Irish and Scotch whiskeys. Frank Lieberman Teed, the council's public analyst, went to work with a will. He found that only one of the "Scotchies" was a pot still malt, one was a pot still spirit, and the others mostly "Two had been manufactured in London. Summonses went out accusing the publicans of selling something other than that demanded and two test cases went up to the north London magistrates. The first was a pot still malt. The second still the Mr. Fordham who had taken such a robust line on adulterated brandy.

The big whisky interests were bothered enough to pay for two King's Counsel to appear against Islington's part-time solicitor, Arthur Bramell. The hearing lasted many days and Islington

where as good as ever but that no guarantee was given about what was in them.

The government was loathe to get involved but Parliament was not unrepresentative of the liquor trade and when Thomas Wiles, my predecessor as MP for South Islington, took a delegation from Islington council to the president of the local government board in July 1907, a promise was given that a royal commission would be set up to bring the deadlock.

The Islington officers did their best. They did not suggest that people should be prevented from drinking grain spirit or blends, only that they had a right to know what they were drinking and, if it was a blend, to have the proportions stated on the label. But the cards were stacked against

# law

manufacturing. If the public did not mind what it was drinking, was it for a royal commission to instruct them? Islington's case was rejected, and corks popped in the Glasgow boardrooms.

What is surprising is that neither side looked over the Channel to the French example in protecting its wine and spirit names. The warning was given by Islington's medical officer of health when he quoted to the commissioner the prophetic words of Dr Harvey Wiley, an American nutritional expert: "If this grana spirit which is distilled in a patent still is considered Scotch and Irish whisky, then we do not want any of yours Scotch and Irish whisky."

particularly energetic in using the Act to prosecute those who added water to milk, margarine to butter and so on. Meanwhile, terrible things had been happening in the vineyards of France. The phylloxera bug, brought over in the new California vine stock, wiped out the fine old French vine. The output of fine wine and cognac and merchants searched for alternatives. Limited supplies of fine brandy were mixed with spirits made from grain, beetroot, potatoes or any of the other products from which alcohol can be manufactured.

Islington was one of several London boroughs that prose-

that. So the blenders came into being, mixing the cheap grain spirit with the expensive pot still, and this was the product which, in the absence of cognac, came to dominate the English after-dinner table and made fortunes for the big grain distillers.

At this point the assiduous Islington officials got a political directive. Some of the Labour councillors complained that the whisky being served in London pubs was "poison" that turned the stomachs of the working people who could afford no better. The public houses were added to the list of targets. A council messenger was dispatched to 15 pubs and off

the magistrates declared that, in his district at least, the patent still product was not whisky, and even the pot still product was Scotch whisky only if it was made entirely from malted barley.

Pandemonium reigned in Glasgow. A meeting of the distillers and the blenders was hastily called to ask the government to appoint a commission of inquiry. But the government was unwilling to anticipate the appeal to Clerkenwell Quarter Sessions. At appeal the lower courts' decision stood and the blenders' London-based plasterers' their walls were notices at leaving their drinks

On the day after the Clerk-well decision a massive advertising campaign had been launched in favour of "Cambus" a patent still grain spirit with no pot still in it at all. "Not a drop," in a gallon said the ads. "Any flavour" Islington responded. "People bought it for course." The English had never been accustomed to the taste of the real thing. This was cheap, it did you no harm and it was just as intoxicating as pot still.

The spirit of laissez-faire was too strong. The commission decided then to deny the patent still the new whisky would be to discourage new processes in

United States Irish whiskey in the United States because we can make that for ourselves."

But that was not the main theme of the case and the commission hardly took it on board. But it is the theme most relevant to the present state of the whiskey trade. Anyone who makes grain spirit and sells it in countries now 80% of whose whiskey exports are to be preserved it will be by educating the world to the taste of the old pot still malt, the only truly Scotch stuff about Scotch.

**George Comynham**  
The author is *Liquor MP* for *Islington South and Finsbury*.

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## FIVE YEARS ON

"Sorry son, but the EEC have banned Christmas." The image of the European Community depicted recently in a cartoon in the *Evening Standard* still dominates the minds of many people. Thin-faced foreign bureaucrats in Brussels are imagined conspiring to interfere with British beer and sausages and turn us all into standardized metric Europeans. Meanwhile we must support inefficient French farmers, suffer competition from over-efficient German industries, and worry about whether the feeble Italians will vote communist. Although five years of membership should have done much to dispel these impressions, apparently they have done little.

So perhaps reassurance is necessary that when at midnight tonight Britain slips quietly out of the five-year transitional period into full membership hardly anyone will have cause to notice. Most remaining tariffs went in July. The workings of the common agricultural policy have become so complex that 'tomorrow's changes will be scarcely visible except on paper and in butter (according to the Community British food prices could rise by one penny in the pound if the effects are passed on to the consumer). There will be changes in Britain's power to set against dumping and to take certain emergency measures, but on the whole there will be no dramatically new scenery. The Community has proved more flexible and slower moving than many people expected. Adapting to it has not been as painful or difficult as many feared.

But if the worst fears of its critics have not been realized, nor have the highest hopes of its friends. The visionaries and the federalists and those who hoped for a powerful revival of British industry have all been disappointed. Mr Jenkins's call for monetary union has been filed away with other pious hopes—'immobilized by scepticism', as he himself has said. The concept of gradualism prevails. Great ideas are not in demand. What is emerging, as Michael Shanks wrote in *The Times* yesterday, is a 'loose functional confederation'. So were the anguished debates and political disputes which accompanied Britain's awkward shuffle into the Community really relevant? Has not membership proved much more prosaic and less disruptive than predicted? Was it even worth the trouble?

No balance sheet can show clear material profit or loss over

the past five years. Britain was unlucky to join at a time when many things were going wrong at home and abroad. Rising commodity prices, surging wage demands and other factors swept the country into a period of dangerous inflation and foreign deficits. Many people blamed the Community and continue to do so but in some respects the Community may have helped cushion the effects. Britain's gross budget contribution was £2,039m during the five years of transition. On top of that there was a contribution of about £200m to the capital of the European Investment Bank and a levy of 0.25 per cent on the turnover of the coal and steel industries. But in return there were loans and grants worth about £2,000m which contributed to industrial modernization, retraining and job-creation. There was also a substantial flow of green pounds. Probably if contributions from the regional development fund and the Investment Bank are fully valued there has been a net gain.

On the other hand the main material advantage held out for membership has not accrued. British industry was supposed to rise to the challenge of the open European market and revive accordingly. It has not done so. Europe has been in recession and Britain has remained inefficient. Although exports are now improving, the sense of failure cannot be wholly dispelled. Yet membership of the Community is certainly not responsible for Britain's failures.

The main gains from membership are of a less tangible kind. Britain is now slowly acquiring the habit of thinking in European terms, taking the European dimension of policies into account, comparing its experiences and institutions with those of fellow Europeans, and working with Europeans in forming foreign policy. All this is valuable. Even if most members of the Community seem more concerned with advantage than cooperation the need to maintain institutions and consult with one another has become a scarcely questioned fact of European life, with particularly noticeable results in foreign policy. To imagine Europe without the Community or the Community without Britain now means stretching the mind into areas of diminishing plausibility.

Thus a certain accommodation with scepticism and gradualism does not denote failure. The idealism which forged a tight little community in the after-

math of the war, primarily to contain West Germany and cement the reconciliation with France, could scarcely be expected to drive the larger and more diverse structure which is now emerging. To this extent the Community is facing the penalties of its own success, and it will face more as it becomes enlarged. One foreseeable result is that the idea of a federal Europe will fade so far into the distance that it will no longer be seriously debated. It will be too far off to frighten those who fear it or to inspire those who want it. The loss will be felt on both sides of the debate, but it will allow changes to be made in the habits and institutions of the Community in ways more directly related to practical needs.

The agenda is very full. Direct elections are still urgently required, and it is a pity that Britain is dragging its feet. They will not lead towards federalism. They should enable the European Parliament to act as a more effective and democratic check on the Commission. They may also give individual voters a feeling of involvement in European politics. Next there is the problem of enlargement—economically difficult, especially where Spain is concerned, but politically vital, and a challenge the Community must take head on. The restoration of democracy in Greece, Portugal and Spain is one of the most encouraging recent developments in Europe and it owes more than a little to the political pulling power of the Community, which must therefore not back away from its responsibilities.

In the broader aspects of foreign policy there are also new problems emerging. The Community has been relatively successful in reaching common positions—in Belgrade, for instance, and in the north-south dialogue. It has even made itself felt in South Africa through its code of conduct for European companies. It is going to find itself increasingly forced to look outward in this way. It will have to relate its own industrial restructuring to the wider problems of trade with developing countries to which labour-intensive industries are moving. All this will help put the Community in proper perspective. It is not just about tariffs or regional aid funds. It is about the wider purposes of the community of European nations. Britain should enter its first year as a full member with these higher purposes in mind.

## DR LEAVIS AND MR JONES

If sobriety is the hallmark of a Callaghan honours list in respect of political honours, catholicity marks the choice of those singled out in the fields of arts and letters. It is a pleasure to peruse a list which honours (with suitable gradations) Miss Isobel Baillie, Mr Peter Pears, Miss Jean Rhys, Mr Tom Stoppard, and the two Ronnies. But the section of the list which suggests that whatever else the honours system may die of it will not be hardening of the arteries is the Order of Companions of Honour. It contains two names, Mr Jack Jones and Dr F. R. Leavis. It would be hard to find another pair who have trodden two such different paths to two such different kinds of recognition, having only their pugnacity, their measure of influence, and their deserts in common.

General secretaries of the Transport and General Workers Union usually step down (or up?) to the Cabinet table or the House of Lords. They have recently acquired the sort of expectations that Attorneys General acquired long ago. Mr Jones's enrolment among Companions of Honour may have something to do with the fact that it does not encumber him with anything so unrepresentative of general workers as a peerage or a handle to his name.

Dr Leavis's is a belated honour. It comes to him in his eighty-third year. He has for a long time laboured under a conviction that his own university of Cambridge withheld from him the full preferment and recognition that was his due; and he would not find some extra satisfaction in sporting in his CH an important rebuke by the establishment proper of the petty establishment in Cambridge.

Such are his infuriating methods of controversy, the viscosity of much of his writing, and the tendency for *fusus scholasticus* to break out around him, that it is hard to get the true measure of his contribution. Building on the critical writings of Dr L. A. Richards and T. S. Eliot, he became the leading figure in a school of literary criticism whose recurrent manifesto was the journal *Scrutiny*. The influence of the school was wide and deep before, during and after the Second World War.

It operated at two levels: by dissemination of a new form of academic literary criticism through the missionary activity of its disciples in universities throughout the English-speaking world; and by promoting a revolution in taste, a new literary sensibility, among his students in general. The characteristic technique was close reading of the text, rigorous

attention to the meaning and texture of the writing, the significance of the work being the impression thereby made on the mind of the reader. As Dr Leavis and others developed it, it gave original reappraisals of lasting importance. With that went a new order of literary importance related to the moral substance of the works in question (George Eliot before Dickens, Lawrence before everything).

Further than that, Dr Leavis teaches that the critical study of literature is of importance not only as a discipline but as a social and moral force, an antidote to the debased values fostered by acquisitive industrial society; that the study of literature is capable of forming, and should be made, the core of liberal education, the primary agency for the transmission of cultural values; that its place is that, once occupied by Newman for theology, Dr Leavis's exalted view of the study of literature, this high seriousness of purpose, is reminiscent of Victorian England, though the mannerisms accompanying it are not. Matthew Arnold on a bicycle. His special combination of exaltation and rigour is falling out of fashion again, though Dr Leavis has continued to preach it as fiercely as ever. He is most happily honoured for it.

## Kilometres all the way

From Colonel Grenville Steel  
Sir, The news today that an announcement will shortly be made of the Government's intention to introduce the metric system on our roads is probably the first indication to the general public that this is a mandatory obligation on this country by the EEC.

You, Sir, have published a leading article (December 29) on the subject in a fairly light-hearted vein. Even so, you point out that the only advantage therein will accrue to foreign visitors, and you hint at the enormous costs which will fall largely on local authorities. Metrication in other matters may have been of some help to exporters, but there can be no justification for changing our miles to kilometres. The United States, with a metric currency, still sticks to yards and miles. Few if any people when asked for the EEC realized such an implication. I cannot believe that it is too late for a general expression of angry protest to stop this stupidity.

Yours faithfully,  
GREVILLE STEEL,  
Stable Cottage,  
Southrop Lodge,  
Lechlade, Gloucestershire.

## Licensing photocopying

From Mr Eugene Gros  
Sir, Professor B. Z. Beinart and his colleagues (Letters, December 24) have "No supporting evidence" that "library copying is seriously affecting subscriptions to learned journals and other specialized periodicals". I shall be glad to make such evidence available for commercially published, unsubsidized specialized journals which are translated from foreign languages into English.

My firm publishes several such journals (translated from Russian). Unlike authors, specialized translators have no prestige or other special interest on whether given work is published. They demand and get the normal commercial rate for their work. As an example I quote the following facts about one of our journals, the only one, incidentally, to which Prof Beinart's university subscribes: the annual volume of this journal totals approximately 2,500 pages, with about one million words in translation. As a rough guide, the total cost of such a low circulation publication is in the order of about £35 per thousand printed words. There is no advertising and consequently no income from such a source. It

therefore follows that subscription rates must be relatively high and that our subscribers have to pay the price.

In such a case there is a great temptation to borrow and photocopy. We have offered time and again to subscribers second and third copies at vastly reduced prices but there are very few takers; we assume the reason for this is photocopying. Even the copies which we supply free of charge as copyright copies are not immune from being photocopied.

I am sure that if Prof Beinart and his colleagues examine the records of their own university they will find that copies of the other six of our journals—to which they are not subscribing—are borrowed from other libraries and freely used in photocopy form. I would appreciate convincing evidence that this is not the case.

Even happened that we were requested to sign forms to large industrial libraries that we allow them to photocopy from copies which they did not purchase.

Yours faithfully,  
EUGENE GROS, Managing Director,  
Scientific Information Consultants Ltd,  
661 Finchley Road, NW2,  
December 28.

## The challenge from developing nations

From Mr Caspar Brook

Sir, Your issue of December 12 with your article on challenges to living standards in more developed countries by the less developed countries has only just arrived here. You seem to have overlooked an important point—perhaps the most important. As I write without access to statistics I can make only some general points.

The challenge to the British now (and eventually to the other 1,000 millions in the other more developed countries) will be increasingly how to cope with development—a process which we have been subject for the past few years in Britain. It seems unreasonable to expect that Britons in the year 2000 will still be as mobile, as warm at home and at work, as overfed and misfed as we are today, and with electromechanical and other artifacts and as free to make their own decisions as they are typically now.

To infer from your article that you believe that some less developed countries will reach the present/ recent per capita consumption levels in the so-called, more developed countries is far more likely than (1) the at present more developed countries will have to develop during the life of the foreseeable generations and (2) some of the less developed countries will develop somewhat more but to nothing like the high levels that most of us have enjoyed in the more developed countries.

Your implied faith in the continuing development (growth) of the more developed countries is already being challenged—permanent large scale unemployment and overmanagement, prospective energy depletion, increasing instability of society and progressive breakdown of law and order. The quality of life of the more developed countries seems bound to deteriorate, as has been happening so clearly to the

Yours faithfully,  
CASPAR BROOK,  
Sudan Club,  
PO Box No 322,  
Khartoum,  
December 18.

## Contact with South Africa

From Mr M. C. Tarver

Sir, I am a former master at the Diocesan College in Cape Town, and only a very busy end of term prevented my writing to you at the appropriate time about the cancellation of the Dulwich vs Bishop's match. The letter published today (December 28) from Mr C. D. Hoare has prompted me once again.

We do not, in this country, spend hundreds of thousands of pounds to enable our young to travel to other countries and learn about the way of life there? Does not the DES encourage foreign exchanges? Is it not generally agreed that travel broadens the mind? Is not the future peace of the world partly dependent upon the nations young getting to know one another?

If these things be so, how can anyone consider it sensible to prevent young South Africans (black, white or mixed) from having as wide a contact as possible with peoples of other nations? Surely, we would like to enable them to compare our country with theirs? Or are we afraid of the competition?

There are two sickening ironies in this sorry business. The first is that we have been the ones to act bilaterally (what would have been the outcry had Pretoria refused to allow a black team to play?). The second is that schools like Bishop's need all the support we can give—they are on our side, as it were!

It is certainly not "fair play" as I understand it that allows a visit to the Alexander and redneck to a minimum (if it cannot scotch altogether) the contact young South Africans would have with us.

Yours faithfully,  
M. G. TARVER,  
30 Marine Avenue,  
Hatfield,  
Hertfordshire.

## Morality of large units

From Mr D. S. Deacon

Sir, Your leading article "The Rights and Wrongs of Striking" (Wednesday, December 28) richly emphasises the necessity to focus on the problems which to their effects often do not appear to be consistent with a moral society.

I suggest that the situation we face is the inevitable result of a society which for too long has tolerated corporate philosophies, whether by reason of the industrial organizations both public and private; or by trade unions; or by governments themselves in the support which they give to these bodies and in their encouragement of the increase in both size and numbers of bureaucratic institutions. Until we can replace these philosophies by those which allow more freedom of expression to, and place more responsibility for action on, the individual, this situation is bound to continue.

There is a lot of wisdom in the remark attributed to Lord Thurley in the eighteenth century: "Did you ever expect a corporation to have a conscience, when it has no soul to be damned and no body to be kicked?"

Yours faithfully,  
D. S. DEACON,  
72 Hartley Crescent,  
Southport,  
Merseyside.

## Insulating houses

From Mr B. G. R. Holloway

Sir, Sir Hugh Ford's letter (December 16) is most timely. The total energy concept must be foremost in designers' and economists' minds. Can the Government find a realistic financial way of encouraging this? VAT (energy added tax) instead of VAT is one idea but difficult to apply.

Yours faithfully,  
B. G. R. HOLLOWAY,  
Tillingdale,  
Tillingbourne Park,  
Wotton,  
Dorking,  
Surrey.

## Appeals against lenient sentences

From Mr M. D. Shaffner

Sir, I am sorry to disagree with a professional colleague (Mr M. J. Rose, *The Times*, December 28) but I would be strongly opposed to any proposal that the prosecution should be given the right to challenge a sentence on the grounds of undue leniency. The alternative suggestion that the prosecution should merely seek a declaration that the sentence was inadequate would, in my view, be self-defeating, or, at the very least, of no use at all.

It is rarely possible to assuage the feelings of the victim of a crime or satisfy the public conscience (whatever the meaning of this phrase is on basis, in my view, for such a revolutionary and disturbing change as that suggested by Mr Rose.

Yours faithfully,  
MAURICE D. SHAFFNER,  
Prosecuting solicitor,  
West Yorkshire Metropolitan Police,  
Fell House,  
George Street,  
Kendal,  
West Yorkshire,  
December 29.

From Mr Jack Ashley, CH, MP for Stoke-on-Trent (Labour)

Sir, When I introduced a Bill in the House of Commons earlier this year to give the prosecution the right of appeal on sentences in cases of rape, fears were expressed that this could be extended to all other types of crime. I am unable to understand this objection since excessive leniency, especially for violent crime, can be as damaging as excessive severity in all cases. One affects society, the other affects individuals, and both should have the right of appeal on sentences in cases of rape, fears were expressed that this could be extended to all other types of crime. I am unable to understand this objection since excessive leniency, especially for violent crime, can be as damaging as excessive severity in all cases. One affects society, the other affects individuals, and both should have the right of appeal on sentences in cases of rape, fears were expressed that this could be extended to all other types of crime. 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## Jerusalem 1917: 'The comradeship of our joint belief'

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an Ind 15p to 14 1/2p  
an Ind 12p to 11 1/2p  
an Ind 10p to 9 1/2p  
an Ind 8p to 7 1/2p  
an Ind 6p to 5 1/2p  
an Ind 4p to 3 1/2p  
an Ind 2p to 1 1/2p  
an Ind 1p to 1/2p

Rises

an Ind 20p to 21p  
an Ind 18p to 19p  
an Ind 15p to 16p  
an Ind 12p to 13p  
an Ind 10p to 11p  
an Ind 8p to 9p  
an Ind 6p to 7p  
an Ind 4p to 5p  
an Ind 2p to 3p  
an Ind 1p to 2p

Other pages

A Basic Rate Table



Personal investment and finance, pages 16 and 17

# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS



### ICI profit warning amplifies City's fear over effect of rising pound

By Nicholas Hirst

Fear of the effects of a rising pound on company profits and a growing lack of export competitiveness sent the FT ordinary share index down 52 points to 485.4 yesterday. This followed Imperial Chemical Industries, Britain's largest industrial company, issuing a warning of the impact of the rising pound on its results for the third quarter of 1977.

ICI gave the warning after disappointing figures for its third quarter with profits down from £16m in the second quarter to £10.5m and a succession of lower-than-expected profits from companies with interests as widespread as Unilever and Guinness & Neill.

Estimates of company profits within the City have been sharply downgraded over the past few months as previous windfall gains on currency translations have been wiped out and stock profits have been reduced as inflation has come down.

In Western Europe ICI's sales volume was down 7 per cent in the third quarter. It is saying that the rising pound is hitting profits on United Kingdom exports.

Comments on its fourth quarter trading were contained

in a statement made to the United States Securities and Exchange Commission in connection with the raising of \$150m (£75m) by an issue of guaranteed sinking fund debentures.

At the end of September the dollar stood at 1.7475 to the pound. Sterling has since risen by nearly 10 per cent to \$1.9170 yesterday and against the trade weighted index of a basket of major currencies the pound has appreciated by 44 per cent over the same period.

The effect has been to cut away at the already thin margins of major exporters such as Courtaulds and to reduce the impact of profits of overseas subsidiaries of companies like BAT, whose shares were down 4p to 285p yesterday.

In its statement ICI said it hoped for some improvement in economic conditions during 1978 but its warnings, both on the pound and on the continuing depressed level of activity in plastics, fibres and petrochemicals left its shares down 10p to 351p.

However, business throughout the stock market was light and there was no further movement in the pound. The FT ordinary share index closed at 485.4, down 52 points from 537.4 at the start of the day.

Comments on its fourth quarter trading were contained

### Monopolies inquiry into check trading

By Our Commercial Editor

Check traders, some of whom charge customers up to 70 per cent at an annualised rate for the credit and other services offered, were yesterday referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, asked the Commission to report within two years both on the way check traders deal with consumers and with their financial retailers. Mr Borrie regards the reference as a follow-up to his asking the Commission to investigate credit card operators.

Last night the largest of the check traders, the Bradford-based Provident Financial Group, challenged this link with credit cards. Check trading was started by Provident, then the Provident Clothing Supply Company, 97 years ago but now about 40 companies are involved in this form of credit trading, covering more than two million households.

Two other big companies in the field are Copley's (Holdings) of Hull, and John Pater and Son, based in Leeds. The north is the traditional stronghold of check trading, which has been a staple of the region since 1866. In check value, it is the largest of the credit trading methods.

Trading checks, also known as shopping checks, trading vouchers and trading bonds, are issued by trading companies to consumers. Each check can be used for purchases, usually limited to £30.

The check trader collects from the customer a fee for issuing the check, usually about 10p in the £. Many checks are repaid over 20 weeks, cash owing being collected weekly at the customer's home by the company's agent.

The annual percentage rate of charge for credit, also covering the cost of the home collections, appears to be between 60 and 70 per cent, the Office of Fair Trading believes. But the annual rate of interest on vouchers is believed to be lower.

Customers are charged normal cash prices in the shops franchised. The check traders settle the retailers' account monthly, it is believed by the OFT, which means a retailer might have to wait six or seven weeks before being paid. Additionally, the check trader retains the commission to the retailer which may be 12.5 per cent to 15 per cent of the value of the goods sold.

Credit card charges have fallen in line with interest rate levels, but the charges in check trading have remained constant.



Among those awarded knighthoods are, left to right, Mr J. F. E. Gilchrist, Mr J. Campbell Fraser, Mr John Methven, Mr Frank Tombs, Mr Hector Laing, Mr Arthur Sugden and Mr Raymond Potter.

### Knighthoods for industry and City

Mr John Methven, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, and Mr Leslie Frederick Murphy, chairman of the National Enterprise Board, are among the industry City and business representatives in the New Year Honours List.

Of the nine knighthoods and 33 CBEs for the business community, four knights and seven CBEs are awarded for services to export, Mr Methven formerly director of the Office of Fair Trading, who took the top CBI job in June 1976 and Mr Murphy, who became head of the NEB in July 1977, are among those to receive knighthoods.

Others are Mr James Campbell Fraser, managing director of Dunlop Holdings; Mr Hector Laing, chairman of United Biscuits (Holdings); Mr Joseph Raymond Lynden Porter, chairman of the Field & Copley's (Holdings); Mr Peter Wendel Schegman, lately chairman of APV Holdings; Mr Arthur Sugden, chief executive officer of the Co-operative Wholesale Society; and Mr Francis Leonard Tombs, chairman of the Electricity Council.

Mr Charles Frederick Carter, chairman of the committee of inquiry into the Post Office set up in 1975 which published its report in July 1977, who is Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lancaster, and Mr Ronald Ellis, head of defence sales of the

Ministry of Defence, also received knighthoods.

In the CBE list, services to export are recognized by awards to Mr Alec Field Aikin, managing director Military Aircraft Division, British Aerospace (BAC Ltd); Mr Thomas Roy Eames, export adviser, British Overseas Trade Advisory Council; Mr George Browne Heaney, chairman and managing director General Motors Scotland; Mr William Arthur Chubb and Son; Mr James Clive Walker, lately managing director Molins; Mr Leonard George Wood, group director music, EMI.

Other CBE awards go to Mr Derick Frank Benwell, general manager Runcorn Development Corporation; Mr William Herbert Barnett, chairman Belfast Harbour Commissioners; Mr Zachary Brierley, for services to industry in Wales; Mr Joseph Rowland Watts, partner Price Waterhouse and Co; Mr Derick Edward Wilde, vice-chairman Barclays Bank and chairman Keyser Ullmann Holdings; Mr Joseph Neville Wood, director general General Council of British Shipping; and Mr John Wright, chairman and managing director Hall Russell.

for services to the Corporation of London; Mr Richard England Liddiard, chairman Czarnikow Group; Mr John Patrick Lowry, director of personnel and administration British Leyland; Mr George William Marriott, lately chairman steering group of the Joint Government-Industry Footwear Industry Study; Mr Laurence John Mills, board member National Coal Board; Horace Roy Oakley, senior partner, J. D. and D. M. Watson; Mr Victor Grellier Paige, deputy chairman National Freight Corporation; Mr Geoffrey Frank Ingleson Roberts, member for production and supply British Gas Corporation; Mr Arthur Geoffrey Robinson, managing director Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority; Mr Alfred Spinks, research director Imperial Chemical Industries; Mr Kenneth Robert Vernon, North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board; Mr William Ferguson Watson, group technical director Allied Polymer Group; Mr Roy Watts, director Commercial Importers, British Airways; Mr Thomas Rowland Watts, partner Price Waterhouse and Co; Mr Derick Edward Wilde, vice-chairman Barclays Bank and chairman Keyser Ullmann Holdings; Mr Joseph Neville Wood, director general General Council of British Shipping; and Mr John Wright, chairman and managing director Hall Russell.

### Sterling climbs further against the dollar

By Caroline Atkinson

Sterling climbed again against the dollar in a thin market yesterday to close at \$1.917, a rise of 70 points on the day. It has gained 53 cents in the past week.

The pound's effective rate index has risen from 64.1 before Christmas to 65.2 at yesterday's close, the highest rate for more than 18 months. The competitive edge gained in last year's fall in the pound has been completely lost according to Morgan Guaranty, the American bankers.

In the December issue of *World Financial Markets* Morgan Guaranty compares the change in exchange rates with different rates of inflation in the major countries.

They show that the market's effective appreciation this year has been largely offset by the better price performance.

The Japanese yen is still undervalued according to the bankers, and the market has not discounted for Japan's expected inflation advantage over America next year.

The dollar slipped to new lows yesterday and dropped below the barrier of 2 Swiss francs to the dollar to close at \$1.919, and below the yen level of 240 to finish at 239.7.

Against the German currency it fell slightly to DM2.0975. Dealers said that there was not really a proper market yesterday ahead of the new year, and that the market's opinion of the new chairman of the Fed would not be tested until next week.

A banker from the influential Union Bank of Switzerland has said that the pound is now overvalued, and that if the level of about \$1.92 to the dollar is maintained British exports will suffer.

The annual percentage rate of charge for credit, also covering the cost of the home collections, appears to be between 60 and 70 per cent, the Office of Fair Trading believes. But the annual rate of interest on vouchers is believed to be lower.

Customers are charged normal cash prices in the shops franchised. The check traders settle the retailers' account monthly, it is believed by the OFT, which means a retailer might have to wait six or seven weeks before being paid. Additionally, the check trader retains the commission to the retailer which may be 12.5 per cent to 15 per cent of the value of the goods sold.

Credit card charges have fallen in line with interest rate levels, but the charges in check trading have remained constant.

### Community invites main steel importers to negotiate import restraint pacts

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, Dec 30

Japan, South Korea, Spain, South Africa, Brazil, EFTA (the European Free Trade Association) and East European countries, the EEC's main steel suppliers, were today invited by the European Commission to open negotiations on export restraint agreements, covering both price and quantity, as soon as possible in the new year.

A senior official in the steel directorate of the Commission's Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs, Mr. J. P. G. de Wit, said a press conference here that agreement with Japan and EFTA could be secured by the end of January. Agreements with the other suppliers should be concluded at the latest by the end of March.

As far as price was concerned, foreign suppliers would be

asked to offer their steel at the reference year, the EEC would offer to maintain "traditional trade patterns", but adjusted to take account of the lower steel consumption forecast for 1978.

In general, the agreement sought by the Commission would be valid for a year, but could be for a much shorter period.

Russian shipments ban: The Department of Trade announced yesterday it had imposed a total ban on imports of Russian steel after a six-fold increase in shipments to the United Kingdom this year.

The ban, which could prove to be a setback for Anglo-Soviet trade relations, comes after an apparent refusal by the Russians to agree to a voluntary restraint on its steel exports to Britain during 1978.

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### Africans cut quality oil premiums

New York, Dec 30—Africa's three leading oil-producing states, Algeria, Libya and Nigeria, are to reduce the quality premium differentials on their overpriced crude by between 20 cents and 30 cents a barrel.

The cuts will be effective for the entire 1978 first quarter.

At last week's Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) meeting in Caracas, there had been considerable speculation that the African producers would reduce their premiums because of problems in selling their oil.

The three African producers had been among the leading advocates of a price increase for the Opec benchmark, Saudi Arabian light oil, to help to counterbalance the reduction they planned for their premiums.

Because their oils are high quality the Africans charge premiums ranging up to nearly 52 cents more than the benchmark quote of \$12.70.

Sources here said that Nigerian officials have indicated they will also offer other incentives to encourage the first quarter.

They are trying to develop a sliding-scale discount off the official price that would be based on volumes of oil taken, a spokesman said.

With a light but metal-braced body or stick on to which is slotted a plastic sandwich that grips two strip blades, the Gillette is about 20 per cent of the wet-shave market.

Wilkinson went into twin-blades later and the WII was re-launched in the autumn after overcoming initial supply problems. So far the WII, which has head on which the blade angle is adjustable, has little more than 1 per cent of the market.

But Wilkinson's earlier single-blade bonded systems razor has probably 10 per cent of the market, while Gillette's earlier systems razor, the Technic, is now down to around 7 per cent of the market.

A big advantage of systems razors has been that once the user has taken them up sales of replacement blades—which is where the profit is—has been virtually automatic. This has been followed because of the individual features.

Wilkinson have already started a campaign to popularize its twin-blade razors as finding any twin-blade systems stick. Mr Bob Barlett, managing director of Wilkinson Match UK, the parent company of Wilkinson Sword, who agreed that the twin-blade market is the fastest growing, said the public ought to be told about the interchangeability.

Derek Harris

### Signs of downturn in US economy

By Our Economics Staff

America's index of leading economic indicators fell last month for the first time since June, raising some doubts about the strength of the United States recovery.

The index dropped 0.2 per cent from its October level, which in turn was 0.8 per cent higher than in September. The increase in October has revised upwards by Commerce

Department statisticians from an originally assumed increase of 0.7 per cent.

Although the overall record of the leading indicator index in predicting movements in the economy is good, too much weight is to be read into one month's figures. Fairly substantial revisions have occurred in the past, bringing about significant changes in the picture.

Nonetheless, the signs of a downturn will reinforce those

in the Administration arguing for a substantial financial stimulus next year to ensure that growth is maintained at a high level.

Forecasts prepared by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development suggest that without such stimulus economic growth in the United States will slow to around 3 per cent at an annual rate by the second half of next year.

### \$400m loan facility for BOC

By Our Financial Staff

BOC International has concluded arrangements with a small group of British and American banks for new loan facilities of up to \$400m (£210m).

The immediate purpose of the facility, which has been tied up in the form of separate deals with each bank on effectively identical terms, is to fund the purchase of BOC's proposed increase in its stake in Alcoa, the American industrial gases group.

This purchase, which will involve a tender offer during January, will only cost BOC about £77m, but BOC has chosen to secure the availability of a much larger amount to cover the possibility that it might eventually bid for the remainder of Alcoa's full amount of the facility will ever be used.

Within the next two years BOC will also have to refinance a \$80m medium term loan arranged when it bought an initial stake in Alcoa in 1973.

Initially BOC acquired 34 per cent and it is now planning to raise its holding to 49 per cent. Alcoa's tender price of \$455m, Alcoa is capitalized at \$515m.

The new loan facility will be repayable in up to 7 years. Terms have not been revealed, but are expected to be a margin over Eurodollar interbank rates.

### Mr Ross Stainton takes over at British Airways

By Arthur Read

Air Correspondent

In a reorganisation of the top management of British Airways announced yesterday by the Government, Sir Frank MacFarlane, chairman of the state airline, will be replaced by Mr Ross Stainton, the deputy chairman.

Sir Frank, who had a heart attack in September, is to return to his duties as chairman of the airline on a part-time basis on medical advice. He was previously chairman at Shell, and became part-time chairman of British Airways in January, 1976, and full-time chairman in July of this year.

Mr Stainton who is 63 has been running the airline on a day-to-day basis since Sir Frank's illness. He has spent his entire working life with the airline and its predecessors, joining Imperial Airways as a traffic trainee in 1933. In September, 1972, he became chairman and chief executive of BOAC.

Two other appointments announced at the same time are those of Mr Gerry Draper and Mr Peter Hermon to the board of the airline.

Mr Draper, aged 51, is to become director of commercial operations, succeeding Mr Roy Watts, who is to be director of finance and planning after the retirement from the board of Mr Cyril Herring. Mr Draper joined BEA in 1964 and became marketing director of BA in April this year.

### Mr Ross Stainton takes over at British Airways

Mr Hermon, aged 49, is a computer expert. He joined BOAC as management services director in 1965 and occupied the same post in British Airways after the merger in 1972 of BEA and BOAC.

He was responsible for a major report on reorganisation within the airline which was implemented last year.

Mr William de Vries, chairman of Acrow, has been reappointed to the board of the airline as a part-time member.

### New capital issues down £213m this year

New capital issues by companies fell by £213m to £947.3m in 1977 according to statistics compiled by the Midland Bank.

This was offset by an increase in funds raised by local authorities and other public bodies (excluding the Government) from £302.9m to £553.5m, to save the total of new money raised this year £72.9m ahead of 1976 at £1,500.8m.

Rights issues continued to be the most popular form of raising finance, accounting for 737.9m or 84 per cent of company issues.

The biggest rights issue in 1977 came from Commercial Union which raised £76m, followed by Guinness, Keen and Neill (£41m), Tube Investment (£41m), BOC International (£41m) and Consolidated Gold Fields (£41m).

### Brazil and El Salvador at nub of US coffee inquiry

New York, Dec 30—The United States Government is investigating huge coffee purchases by agents of Brazil and El Salvador, according to well-informed trade and regulatory sources. The inquiry has been under way for almost a year.

While it has been known for months in trade circles that both Brazil, the world's largest coffee producer, and El Salvador, also a major producer, have been buying futures contracts for later delivery of coffee at a specified price in New York and London, few details of their alleged collaboration have emerged.

Trade and government sources said the complex design included earmarking of at least \$100m in the form of a line of credit to be used, if necessary, to bolster the world price of coffee.

Another key element in the plan, the sources said, was operation Central Fair, a purchase by Brazil of more than 122,000 bags of coffee bought by El Salvador last summer on the New York coffee and sugar exchange. The coffee was sent back to Brazil, and some of it was already been resold in the United States.

A spokesman for the Brazilian coffee trading organization in New York said government investigators had questioned its officials but denied any conspiracy.

The primary targets of the investigation are said to be Brazil's trading company, Petrosbras Comercio Internacional SA, known in the trade as Coscaba.

### BP to drill second Buchan well

British Petroleum was yesterday given approval to proceed with the second development well on the Buchan field. The field lies about 90 miles north-east of Aberdeen.

In a statement yesterday the Department of Energy said that its approval for the second development well had been given without prejudice to the consideration of the overall development plan for the Buchan field.

BP became involved in developing the field last July only one month after it acquired a controlling interest from three smaller companies.

Move to combat cheap electrical imports

British electrical industry is studying ways to combat cheap, imported goods which could present a big problem in 1978 for United Kingdom companies.

Mr A. K. Edwards, chief executive of the British Elec-

trical and Allied Manufacturers' Association, said yesterday: "In several instances it would appear that they are selling at about works' cost, chiefly to keep their own production lines running."

Shipyard conciliation

British Shipbuilders has asked independent conciliators to try to settle an inter-union battle that is posing a serious threat to industrial relations.

The dispute centres on whether the Engineers and Managers Association (EMA) should be formally recognised for bargaining purposes.

£1.6m for Dublin hotel

Swan Ryan International, one of the largest inclusive holiday

### BP to drill second Buchan well

operators in the Irish Republic, has bought The Gresham hotel in O'Connell Street, Dublin, from Tunnery Hotels for more than £1.6m. The Dublin-based group already owns four hotels in Ireland, at Killybegs, Sligo, Galway and Limerick, and one in London.

3,000 new jobs

Grants offered under the Government's small firms employment subsidy (SFES) which was introduced in July, have created almost 3,000 new jobs in special development areas, the Department of Employment said yesterday.

The SFES, which has helped 1,428 small employers to take on extra workers, offers a subsidy of £20 a week for up to 26 weeks for each additional full-time job.

### Hoffnung

#### INTERIM RESULTS

Unaudited results of S. Hoffnung & Co. Limited for the half-year ended 30th September, 1977—

	Half-year to 30.9.77	Half-year to 30.9.76	Half-year to 31.3.77
Turnover	£'000 52,796	£'000 50,796	£'000 56,032
Group profit before tax	1,585	1,986	2,542
Tax	800	817	964
	785	1,169	1,578
Profit attributable to minority interests	63	130	146
	702	1,039	1,432
Half-year preference dividend	10	10	9
Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders	692	1,029	1,423
Earnings per ordinary share	3.93p	5.84p	8.08p
Fully diluted earnings per ordinary share	3.81p	5.49p	7.43p

Interim dividend of 1.485p per share (same) on the Ordinary shares of 25p each payable on 7th April, 1978.

Notes:—

- (1) No account has been taken of the possibility of further Australian tax becoming payable on the profits of Australian branches as no details have been announced by the Australian Government, nor has any rate of such tax been specified.
- (2) No credit has been taken for extraordinary profits of about £275,000 at current rates of exchange which will be included in the results for the full year.

The Chairman's statement of 12th September, 1977 warned that the profits for the first half of 1977/78 would be disappointing. He pointed out, however, that the first half of the year was normally less important than the second and said that what was needed was an improvement in confidence and in retail spending for the Christmas trade. Unfortunately this did not develop to the extent expected and the uncertainty created by the Australian general election did not help.

Having regard to all the circumstances now ruling in Australia and notwithstanding significantly higher profits being achieved by G&M Power Plant, the Board expects that pre-tax profits for the year ending 31st March, 1978 will be below the record profits of last year.

### How the markets moved

THE POUND			
	Bank	Bank	Bank
Rises	7p to 77p	8p to 85p	9p to 92p
Donch de Groot	3p to 71p	4p to 73p	5p to 75p
Wheat Group	7p to 73p	8p to 75p	9p to 77p
Wheat	4p to 102p	5p to 104p	6p to 106p
Livestock	4p to 50p	5p to 52p	6p to 54p
Falls	20p to 430p	21p to 431p	22p to 432p
Anglo Am Ind	8p to 67p	9p to 68p	10p to 69p
British Ind	18p to 308p	19p to 309p	20p to 310p
Electronics	20p to 455p	21p to 456p	22p to 457p
Broken Hill	3p to 89p	4p to 90p	5p to 91p
Dunlop	10p to 351p	11p to 352p	12p to 353p
Harley	10p to 351p	11p to 352p	12p to 353p
Harley Ind	10p to 351p	11p to 352p	12p to 353p
Kwik-Fit	3p to 45p	4p to 46p	5p to 47p
Lease	2p to 34p	3p to 35p	4p to 36p
Equities fell back			
Gold-edged stocks rose in late trading			
Dollar premium 80 per cent (effective rate 32.23 per cent)			
Sterling was at \$1.9170. The effective exchange rate index was at 65.2.			
Bank Base Rate Table	18	S. Hoffnung Unit Trusts	15
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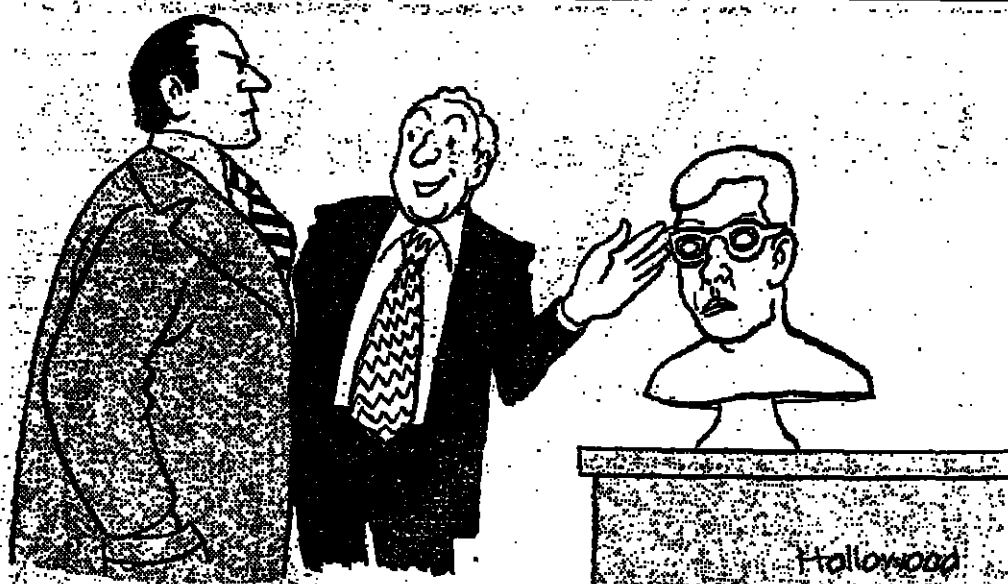






EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS



## Salutations to the shoppers

Christmas already seems a long time ago, but it will be months before I can begin to look back on one particular aspect of it without breaking out in a rash. I suppose, rather like trench warfare, that actual experience is the only thing that can convey such total horror. Which is why this article is dedicated to all those brave ladies who, without even considering the odds against them, marched forth day after day to shop in London's West End and who are already facing the pitched battles of the sales.

All I can bring myself to enable you to do is to honestly never know it was like that. It is not so much the huddled masses yearning to be free, most of whom are either tourists or pick-pockets or both. One can cope with that by buttoning up tight in every respect, remaining conscious of one's British superiority and putting padlocks on one's pockets.

What really got me was the more or less universally loathsome service and the hellish inevitability of never being able to find what one wanted.

In the middle of December we were regaled with stories of people spending up to £100 per child on toys for Christmas. Frankly I have no idea how they managed to find anything to spend it on.

I mean, I just wanted some plain wooden animals—jungle ones, not farmed. A simple request, one might imagine, but impossible to fulfil.

I must have gone into every toyshop in London, but I still could not have plain wooden animals, unless I wanted to buy a Noah's Ark as well. And in that shop specialising in hand-crafted stuff from Lower Bavaria, their folk-lore charms extended to not putting prices on any of the articles for sale, which meant that you had to find an assistant to tell you how much everything was before you knew whether you could afford it or not.

My own children are older and out of the toy bracket, thank heavens. But for my 12-year-old I required, among other things, a bust of Mozart because as far as he is concerned Wolfgang Rules O.K.

There is only one shop in London where you can get musical busts and Mozart had run out. "It's always the popular ones that go first," explained the man, offering me Shostakovich as a substitute.

Well, at least he did try, which is more than I can say for most of them. What I found particularly galling was when, instead of serving, they carried on their own private conversation—particularly when it was larded with criticisms of other customers ("and then she said 'We don't have anything like this in Liverpool'"), accompanied by scornful laughter.

I am sure customers can be disabused, but I did not go for the U.S. and then attitude at all, especially with 35 minutes before closing time, four more presents to get and zero more practical shopping days before Christmas.

Music shops seemed to have a particular charmlessness. In another of them I was struggling through the cassettes, where all the symphonies were

Francis Kinsman

## Investor's year

## Hopes still waiting to be realized

Though 1977 saw the FT ordinary index rise 36 per cent and reach its best ever level of 549.2 in doing so, the year will be remembered as a period in which the London stock market failed to live up to the best expectations of investors.

After the peak was achieved in mid-September the prospect of an upturn in interest rates, the inevitable conflicts over the year-end oil price and the growing concern over the health of some of Britain's leading industrial companies combined to erode confidence to such an extent that the index lost almost 100 points in the last few months.

Up to the end of July the equity market made steady if unspectacular progress mainly based on Britain's slow recovery from recession, the remarkable fall in interest rates from the crisis level of the previous November and the emergence of North Sea oil as a decisive factor in economic progress.

The key to a dramatic 25 per cent rise in prices over the next seven weeks was a surprise decision by the authorities to uppeg sterling from its artificially low position against the dollar. This gave an immediate boost to sterling and in its wake share prices moved rapidly to their highest ever levels.

At that point there was a widespread belief that the index would rise to 600 and beyond, but in the event expectations of further progress proved to be well wide of the mark. Shares fell sharply and, although there has been some modest revival from lowest levels, recent

### HOW THEY FARED

#### SECTORS

Best performers % change	Worst performers
Shipbuilding .....	Wires and Ropes .....
Plant hire .....	Mines .....
Mail order .....	Tobacco .....
Hire purchase .....	Chemicals .....
Oil .....	Oil .....
Radio & television .....	Floor coverings .....

Best performers % change	Worst performers
Shipbuilding .....	Wires and Ropes .....
Plant hire .....	Mines .....
Mail order .....	Tobacco .....
Hire purchase .....	Chemicals .....
Oil .....	Oil .....
Radio & television .....	Floor coverings .....

strength in the gilt market has not fed through fully to equities.

From the brokers' point of view a disturbing feature of the year was the generally low level of business actually transacted. An important factor in this has been a marked swing to second-line stocks which, by their nature, are traded in fairly small amounts.

The general reluctance of investors to commit themselves to the "blue chips" was partly vindicated by a clutch of disappointing results in the autumn and the strength of sterling, which has proved a disadvantage to the big exporters.

An analysis of performance by sector shows the relative strength of consumer-oriented shares, Mail order, hire purchase, radio and television, furniture, domestic appliances, motor distributor and footwear

shares are prominent among the best performers throughout the year.

Some of the weakest included mines, tobacco, engineers, shipping and steel shares.

By comparison the gilt-edged market has been consistently stronger in 1977 with the gilt index up by about 30 per cent and some individual stocks up by as much as 50 per cent.

The two main factors behind this strength were falling interest rates for most of the period and a series of economic pointers which, in the main, showed Britain slowly pulling out of recession and inflation falling to manageable proportions.

Two innovations were the variable rate bond and the partly-paid issue, which allows the Government to determine its flow of funds more precisely in advance.

David Mott

## Round-up

## The case for sickness cover

One form of insurance for which I have no hesitation in banging the drum is permanent health insurance, one of the more under-sold of insurance policies and yet arguably one of the most needed.

Its name is, of course, somewhat misleading—if it were given the more accurate title of long-term sickness insurance (providing income), then perhaps more people would be nudged into acquiring this cover. For the statistics indi-

cate that the family breadwinner is more likely to be stricken in this way than by premature death. Yet in the majority of cases his family would be much better off if he were to die than if he were to become a long-term invalid or unable to continue in a highly paid job.

Permanent health insurance can be bought by individuals, but the trend is for employers to include it in the range of benefits offered to their work-

force. As employee benefit packages are outside pay guidelines it is an area where union involvement could be encouraged.

Costs vary, but as a rough estimate one can assume that a group plan will amount to about 1 per cent of the payroll.

Legal and General, which has just improved the terms of its own plan, has been doing some research into the subject. Its findings show that fewer than 2 per cent of workers belong to a group scheme, although one in three is likely to be off work for at least three months during his working life.

What is more, a Gallup survey that L & G commissioned showed that only one family in 10 believed that they could keep up their commitments for more than six months if their income was halved.

## Stock markets

## ICI warning casts its shadow

Hopes of a spirited end to 1977 were quickly dashed by ICI's report of depressed trading and its warning that a strong pound will make an impact on fourth quarter exports.

Jobbers were quick to take evasive action and by 10 am the FT Index was 6.2 down. With a complete lack of interest thereafter—even for the new account—prices were not able to make a significant recovery.

ICI's gloomy news clipped 10p from the shares at 351p while fellow exporters to suffer in sympathy included Beecham down 8p to 677p, Glaxo 7p to 593p and Fisons 5p to 383p.

The weak premium clipped prices from overseas issues with Phillips Lambs off 40p to £8.06 at one stage, and Royal Dutch Shell lower by 87p to £38.62.

Other leading industrials to lose ground were GKN 6p to 276p, GEC 4p to 771p and Thames Valley 2p to 180p. Against the trend Irish Distillers gained a penny to 131p and also in drinks Allied

Breweries, the first of the sector to report in the new year, slipped 2p to 93p.

Both S Leboff 2p to 50p and Britannia Arrow 1p to 221p benefited from comment that for a similar reason motor dealer Friddle & Clarke continued to go ahead, rising another 2p for a close of 2p to 237p.

Speculative issues to suffer from profit taking included Photo-Me, off 10p to 260p. Wilkinson Match 5p to 209p and Stewart Plastics 8p to 137p. But Rentokil managed to gain of 3p to 60p on demand in a thin market which stemmed from hopes of a minority bid.

Building industry shares continued to draw strength from interest rate hopes notably Rowlinson Construction up 4p to 85p, Crouch Group, better by 7p to 72p and J. W. Henderson which added several pence for a close of 142p.

Sweet maker Tavenor Rutledge was hit by small selling in a thin market and closed 13p lower at 121p while Reed International held firm at 125p after a favourable broker's circular. Stores shares reacted from

their recent gains with Gus "A" down 8p to 308p, Marks & Spencer 5p to 158p, Boots 3p to 227p and Burton "A" 3p to 112p.

Among the banks Lloyds slipped 7p to 285p, Barclays 5p to 112p.

If, as some say, the bear market in beer shares is over, Greenall Whitley should look cheap against the sector. This Northern brewer and Viaduct Vodka group is benefiting from drinkers deprived of their Bass Charrington beers. Christmas has been good and Greenall is streamlining its brewery at Warrington. Profits rose 17 per cent in the year to last September and some hope for up to £11.5m this year. The dividend is covered nearly four times. The shares are 104p, the 1976-77 peak.

to 335p, and HK & Shanghai 14p to 260p. Firm against the trend in the financial sector were R. P. Martin 3p to 73p and Mercury Securities where the gain was 2p to 130p. Stock-jobber Akroyd & Smithers reacted 6p to 230p.

Finally, Ladbroke says the offer represents an increase in capital value of more than 33 per cent on the price of L & G per share before the announcement of the offer. It values L & G shares at nearly double the price on the day the 1977 report and accounts were published.

The reaction of the directors of L & G was that the cash offer very substantially undervalued the true worth of the group. Only the L & G board was in a position to appreciate the group's current trading performance.

Lombard North chief in confident mood

For Lombard North Central, Britain's best known car financier and part of National Westminster Bank, the fall in interest rates that began last spring came none too soon.

Dear money in the half year to March 31 kept profits severely in check. Things got better after that but the average cost to Lombard of money over the full year to September 30 was actually higher than in the year before. However, pre-tax profits rose from £8.4m to £11.7m.

Lord Crawford, chairman, said that the year is a "confounding trend of increased profitability". Tricity Finance did better and so did offshoots abroad.

Ladbroke in late effort to capture Leis & Gen

By Ashley Drucker

Its 60p-a-share offer for Leisure & General Holdings due to close on Thursday next, Ladbroke, the betting and entertainment group, again presses its case for L & G's acceptance. Ladbroke now holds about 18 per cent of the L & G equity. Indications at present are that there is still a deal of hard going ahead for this bid worth a total of some £6.2m.

The L & G board has already stated that the board and other shareholders controlling about 54 per cent of the equity do not intend to accept the offer. L & G's share price stands at 61p, down 1p.

Ladbroke in its latest circular argues that there has been a decline in real earnings at L & G. Its 60p cash offer values L & G at 11 times earnings based on 1976-77 results. L & G has not made any forecast for the year to April 30, 1978, but assuming that there was a profit rise of a third, average growth rate for each of the five years to end-April next would still be 28 per cent below the average inflation rate since 1973.

Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net, a For 32 weeks, b Loss, c Cents.

Latest results

Company

Sales

Profits

Earnings

Div

Pay

Year's

total

Company

Sales

Profits

Earnings

Div

Pay

Year's

total

Company

Sales

Profits

Earnings

Div

Pay

Year's

total

Company

Sales

Profits

Earnings

Div

Pay

Year's

total

## Harrisons now seek whole of Harcros

By Bryan Appleyard

Harrisons & Crossfield is making a full-scale approach for the associate company Harcros Investment Trust which values Harcros at £15.4m.

The terms are three H & C shares for every 13 Harcros, with a cash alternative worth 78p. At yesterday's closing price of 1.10, the shares offer is worth 80.9p per share against a closing Harcros price of 70p.

H & C already owns almost 20 per cent of Harcros and associated company holdings and another 4.7 per cent.

News of the bid followed two weeks on the H & C empire. A bid for Golden Hope was beaten off and recently McLeod Rus-

sell bid for Malaysia Plantations, a move which prompted an agreed counter-offer from H & C.

The bid documents for Malaysia and Harcros are now to be sent out on the same day and the two companies are expected to be incorporated simultaneously into the parent.

Harcros has strategic stakes in some of H & C's other associates; for example Castlefield and London Sumatra and Harcros also has 4.4 per cent of the equity of H & C's Malaysian Estates.

A spokesman for Harcros, H & C's advisers, said last night the Harcros bid was not inspired by the recent bids but they had concentrated the mind of the company.

## Cavenham hit by weak European currencies

By Michael Clark

Sir James Goldsmith's foods group Cavenham turns in a disappointing set of figures for the first time since going private. Earlier this year the remaining ordinary shares not owned by Générale Occidentale were converted into fixed interest and preference shares.

In the 32 weeks to November 12 sales slipped from £1,071.1m to £1,020.8m. After deducting interest charges up by £1m to £8.7m, pre-tax profits slid from £22.7m to £16.9m.

Much of the blame for the poor performance during this period is placed on the substantial devaluations in Spain and Sweden, together with the general strengthening of sterling against foreign currencies,

which account for about 70 per cent of group turnover.

In addition to this the group sold some secondary activities such as the pharmaceutical and toiletry products division in Belgium.

Trading in the United States has proved difficult for the group because of the unusual competitive pressures in the retail food industry in the north-east of the country.

Economic conditions in Sweden have also been particularly unfavourable, whereas trading in the United Kingdom, France and Austria has been satisfactory.

Meanwhile, Sir James Goldsmith has sold 4,100 of his 10 per cent preference shares at 96p a share.

## Siemssen in £1m twin takeover

Tobacco merchant and specialist printers group Siemssen, Hunter has exchanged contracts for the purchase of two companies for £1.07m. The two are Seymour Press Group and News Kiosks (Holdings), which were previously under common ownership, although operating as separate management centres.

While the total cost of News Kiosks and Seymour is over £1m, the takeover is a "not less than" £475,000, including some £325,000 in cash—considered to be surplus to the requirements of the business.

The purchase price will be made up of £567,500 in cash with the rest covered by the issue of 700,000 new ordinary shares at a price of 53p a share. The vendors of the company have warranted the News Kiosks and Seymour will make profits for the year just ended of £400,000.

Canon St back in the black

Canon Street Investments has returned a small profit for the six months to June 30. A loss of £12,000 has been turned into a profit of £55,000 on turnover up 28 per cent to £3.6m. The group, which is now controlled by National Westminster Bank has decided to end the sale of its overseas investment and is hanging on to the main interest in significant and profitable trading entity.

This is possible because of the large reduction in borrowings already achieved.

ITT offshoot has rating marked down

One of the subsidiaries of International Telephone & Telegraph, one of the world's largest conglomerates, has had the ratings on its outstanding publicly held debentures and notes marked down by Moody's Investors Service. Pacific Telephone & Telegraph now qualifies only for a Double A compared to a previous Triple A. The \$300m of debentures, due 2018, and scheduled for sale early in the New Year are also being rated high grade Double A.

EIE WANTS \$200m

European Investment Bank (EIB) plans to raise \$200m on European market through two tranche issue. First, of \$100m of 10 year bonds will have an indicated coupon of 8.5 per cent and the second tranche of \$100m of 15 year bonds indicated coupon 8.75 per cent and average life of 12.46 years. Pricing January 12.

BRYANT HOLDINGS

Group has bought from Greyhound Computer Overseas Corp its sub Greyhound Computer Services. Consideration £825,000 in return for net assets of £540,000 including £482,000 cash. No significant contribution to profit expected.

# SAVE & PROSPER has more ways than most to help the private investor

## SAVE & PROSPER Britain's largest unit trust group

- \* Unit trusts under management now exceed £700 million (including that part of the life fund invested in unit trusts)
- \* Over 40 years' investment experience
- \* More than 500,000 investors

## Unit trusts to meet most requirements

- International funds
- Capital funds
- Investment Trust Units
- Universal Growth Fund
- Increasing income funds
- High Yield Units
- Scottish funds
- High income funds
- High Return Unit Trust
- Income Units
- UK funds
- UK Equity Fund
- Scottish funds
- Overseas funds
- European Growth Fund
- Japan Growth Fund
- United States Growth Fund
- Sector funds
- Commodity Share Fund
- Energy Industries Fund
- Financial Securities Fund
- Scottish funds
- High minimum (£2,500) funds
- Select Income Fund

As one of the pioneers of unit trusts in Britain, we have developed a comprehensive range of funds, each of which has a clearly defined objective. For shareholders we offer an extremely attractive Share Exchange Plan which offers an efficient and advantageous way of exchanging stocks and shares for an investment managed by Save & Prosper Group.

By making use of our comprehensive range of investment services we can help you to invest your capital and regular savings in simple and tax-efficient ways, and ensure that your money is under the full-time supervision of professional managers. Founded in 1934, Save & Prosper now manages funds of over £750 million for 700,000 people and is one of Britain's

## SAVE & PROSPER A major life insurance company

- \* Over £150 million life fund
- \* £20 million annual premium income
- \* More than 190,000 policyholders

## Unit-linked plans

Our range of plans can be linked to any of the unit trusts shown opposite or to the following funds:

- Property Fund
- Balanced Investment Fund
- Gilt Fund
- Deposit Fund\*

\*With the exception of the Save-Insure-and-Proper Plan.

Flexible Ten Plus Ten Plan This Plan combines considerable investment flexibility with an exceptionally high investment content—up to 100% depending on age at entry. After 10 years the Plan can be cashed in for a tax-free lump sum or used to provide an income by regular withdrawals, free of personal tax. Save-Insure-and-Proper Plan One of Britain's most popular unit-linked plans, it provides an attractive way of building up capital over 16 years or more.

Investment Bonds A versatile single premium contract. Up to 5% of the original investment can be withdrawn each year for 20 years free of personal tax at the time—a feature particularly attractive to higher-rate taxpayers.

## Guaranteed plans

Guarantee Plus Protection Plan This is designed to provide a high basic sum assured plus a bonus on death. It can be suitable, when written in trust, for use in conjunction with CIT planning.

Guarantee Plus Savings Plan An endowment assurance plan designed to provide a high basic sum assured together with a bonus at the end of the term or on earlier death.

## SAVE & PROSPER An established annuity and pension company

- \* A leader in personal annuity business since 1974
- \* £28 million annuity and pension fund
- \* More than 25,000 policyholders

## Annuities

We offer a full range of annuities and will be pleased to provide a quotation. From time to time we are able also to offer: Guaranteed Income Plans and Guaranteed Growth Bonds

## Providing for school fees

We can help you reduce the burden of school fees through a simple and flexible plan specifically designed to provide a service of guaranteed termly payments. The School Fees Capital Plan enables you to provide for immediate or future school fees by means of a lump-sum contribution. By starting a School Fees Capital Plan well before the child starts school you can effect considerable cost savings.

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Executive Pension Scheme This is designed for controlling directors and senior executives of companies that have contracted into the new State scheme, but who wish to 'top-up' their pensions. Subject to certain limits, full tax relief is normally given on all contributions made by the member and by the company.

Self-Employed Pension Scheme This consists of two plans which together meet the complete pension needs of the self-employed. The Guaranteed Plan provides a fixed amount of pension in return for each contribution, while the Investment Plan provides a pension based on the investment performance of a tax-exempt equity or property pension fund or a unit trust.

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SAVE & PROSPER GROUP



## SPECIAL REPORTS

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PROSPECTIVE

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Russia gets its first supply of Bolivian tin

Bolivia has sold 4,500 tonnes of tin metal to the Soviet Union for more than \$50m (about £26.3m) under an agreement signed at La Paz.

The agreement, between Razonimpoft of the USSR and the Empresa Nacional de Fundiciones (ENAF), provides for delivery of the tin in eight instalments starting in February, ENAF said.

The sale will involve almost 25 per cent of Bolivia's tin-selling capacity of 20,000 tonnes a year, Reuters.

Herald group clinches Standard bid

The auction for the Australian group, Standard Newspapers, has ended with the Herald & Weekly Times raising its terms to give a value of \$2.11 a share. This compares with the rival bid of \$2 a share from David Syme, which has decided to withdraw its offer.

Herald says that it has just under 535,000 Standard shares, about 31 per cent of Standard's issued capital, compared with 23.3 per cent a week ago, when it made its initial bid.

The Standard board recommends the offer unanimously, and will accept on its own shares, Reuters.

MACFARLANE (CLANSMAN) Group has bought Factory Maintenance Services (Glasgow) for £350,000 of which £75,000 cash and rest shares. For next year pre-tax profit expected to be around £150,000.

MERGER CLEARANCE Mr Roy Hattersley, Secretary State for Prices is not referring merger between St Regis International and Reed and Smith Holdings to Monopolies Commission.

Wall Street

New York, Dec 30.—Prices turned easier after opening in mixed but early trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

As the session began, the Government reported a 0.2 per cent decline in its index of leading economic indicators for November, analysts said. However, this should not be much of a market factor as a decline had been expected.

The Dow Jones industrial average was ahead 0.69 to 830.89. It was off over four points early in the session.

Silver gains 4.20c

New York, Dec 29. COMEX SILVER futures finished 4.20c to 3.50 cents higher on scattered demand prompted by indications of a shortage.

Jan. 1978: May, 348.00; July, 349.00; Sept, 350.00; Dec, 351.00; Mar, 352.00; May, 353.00; July, 354.00; Sept, 355.00; Dec, 356.00; Mar, 357.00; May, 358.00; July, 359.00; Sept, 360.00; Dec, 361.00; Mar, 362.00; May, 363.00; July, 364.00; Sept, 365.00; Dec, 366.00; Mar, 367.00; May, 368.00; July, 369.00; Sept, 370.00; Dec, 371.00; Mar, 372.00; May, 373.00; July, 374.00; Sept, 375.00; Dec, 376.00; Mar, 377.00; May, 378.00; July, 379.00; Sept, 380.00; Dec, 381.00; Mar, 382.00; May, 383.00; July, 384.00; Sept, 385.00; Dec, 386.00; Mar, 387.00; May, 388.00; July, 389.00; Sept, 390.00; Dec, 391.00; Mar, 392.00; May, 393.00; July, 394.00; Sept, 395.00; Dec, 396.00; Mar, 397.00; May, 398.00; July, 399.00; Sept, 400.00; Dec, 401.00; Mar, 402.00; May, 403.00; July, 404.00; Sept, 405.00; Dec, 406.00; Mar, 407.00; May, 408.00; July, 409.00; Sept, 410.00; Dec, 411.00; Mar, 412.00; May, 413.00; July, 414.00; Sept, 415.00; Dec, 416.00; Mar, 417.00; May, 418.00; July, 419.00; Sept, 420.00; Dec, 421.00; 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Dec, 1161.00; Mar, 1162.00; May, 1163.00; July, 1164.00; Sept, 1165.00; Dec, 1166.00; Mar, 1167.00; May, 1168.00; July, 1169.00; Sept, 1170.00; Dec, 1171.00; Mar, 1172.00; May, 1173.00; July, 1174.00; Sept, 1175.00; Dec, 1176.00; Mar, 1177.00; May, 1178.00; July, 1179.00; Sept, 1180.00; Dec, 1181.00; Mar, 1182.00; May, 1183.00; July, 1184.00; Sept, 1185.00; Dec, 1186.00; Mar, 1187.00; May, 1188.00; July, 1189.00; Sept, 1190.00; Dec, 1191.00; Mar, 1192.00; May, 1193.00; July, 1194.00; Sept, 1195.00; Dec, 1196.00; Mar, 1197.00; May, 1198.00; July, 1199.00; Sept, 1200.00; Dec, 1201.00; Mar, 1202.00; May, 1203.00; July, 1204.00; Sept, 1205.00; Dec, 1206.00; Mar, 1207.00; May, 1208.00; July, 1209.00; Sept, 1210.00; Dec, 1211.00; Mar, 1212.00; May, 1213.00; July, 1214.00; Sept, 1215.00; Dec, 1216.00; Mar, 1217.00; May, 1218.00; July, 1219.00; Sept, 1220.00; Dec, 1221.00; Mar, 1222.00; May, 1223.00; July, 1224.00; Sept, 1225.00; Dec, 1226.00; Mar, 1227.00; May, 1228.00; July, 1229.00; Sept, 1230.00; 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Dec, 1441.00; Mar, 1442.00; May, 1443.00; July, 1444.00; Sept, 1445.00; Dec, 1446.00



## Subdued end to account

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

THE TIMES SHARE INDICES				
The Times Share Indices for 2012-27 (base date June 2, 1994 original issue date June 2, 1994)				
	Index No.	Index	Share Price	Index %
				Yield
				%
The Times Industrial Share Index	204.88	6.42	11.82	297.45
Largest Cos.	208.26	6.29	12.11	291.10
Largest Financial	210.77	7.14	12.84	288.85
Capital Goods	225.31	6.77	14.01	276.36
Consumer Goods	220.87	6.82	13.86	272.78
Share Stars	184.51	6.03	7.96	126.25
Largest financial shares	231.97	5.37		233.95
Largest industrial and financial shares	212.65	6.05		213.66
Commodity Index 2012-27	207.47	5.76	11.24	214.64
Gold Mining shares	209.61	5.82	16.04	271.51
Industrial chemicals shares	28.56	6.21		50.56
Industrial electronics	61.79	11.38		61.78
20% War Loan	965	0.61		304
A record of the Times Industrial Share Indices is given above.				
	High	Low		
All-time	224.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1971	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1972	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1973	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1974	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1975	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1976	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1977	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1978	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1979	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1980	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1981	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1982	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1983	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1984	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1985	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1986	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1987	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1988	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1989	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1990	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1991	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1992	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1993	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1994	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1995	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1996	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1997	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1998	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
1999	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2000	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2001	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2002	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2003	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2004	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2005	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2006	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2007	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2008	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2009	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2010	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2011	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2012	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2013	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2014	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2015	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2016	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2017	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2018	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2019	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2020	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2021	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2022	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2023	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2024	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2025	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2026	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		
2027	222.88 (19.77)	72.28 (12.74)		















Weekend

## SHOP AROUND

Sheila Black

Once upon a time there was a tree called the Spachea Perforata—a spreading tree with slightly drooping form, reminiscent of the willow but larger and fragrant, with large flowers above the silvery bark and along the branches. It was known as the Soufriere tree and it was loved for its beauty as well as the hint of pathos.

It began to disappear. There is just one left in all the world as far as anyone can tell and what a miracle it would be if

somebody suddenly said there was another after reading this, for the lone Soufriere might even have a happy ending. This last member of its species is at the Botanic Gardens in Kingstown, St Vincent, in the Caribbean, where it was planted before a volcanic eruption destroyed nearly all the trees on the slopes of Mount Soufriere in 1812. Nobody thought or did much about the few that escaped that volcano and it was too late after the

second volcano of 1902 which ended the lives of the few remaining trees.

Until recently, the tree was thought to be male but has now been found to be hermaphrodite—entirely infertile, due to the hot, humid conditions. Nearly 200 years old, it stands there, a botanic curiosity, the last known specimen in the world. Sad, but artist Graham Rust has done something about preserving its memory and its elegance and grace. He has done a

delicate, charming pencil and watercolour of Spachea Perforata, done at St Vincent during the past few months.

You can buy prints of the Rust picture at Spink and Son, 5/7 King Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6QS (01-930 7888) for £10 each, a not too costly way of remembering the tree

after it breathes its last, as well it may.

Also at Spink is, at last, the Silver Jubilee paperweight of which we showed a photograph more than two months ago when there were expected to be more than there were. Colour leaflets, with order forms, for this £250 (+ VAT) paperweight by Bac-

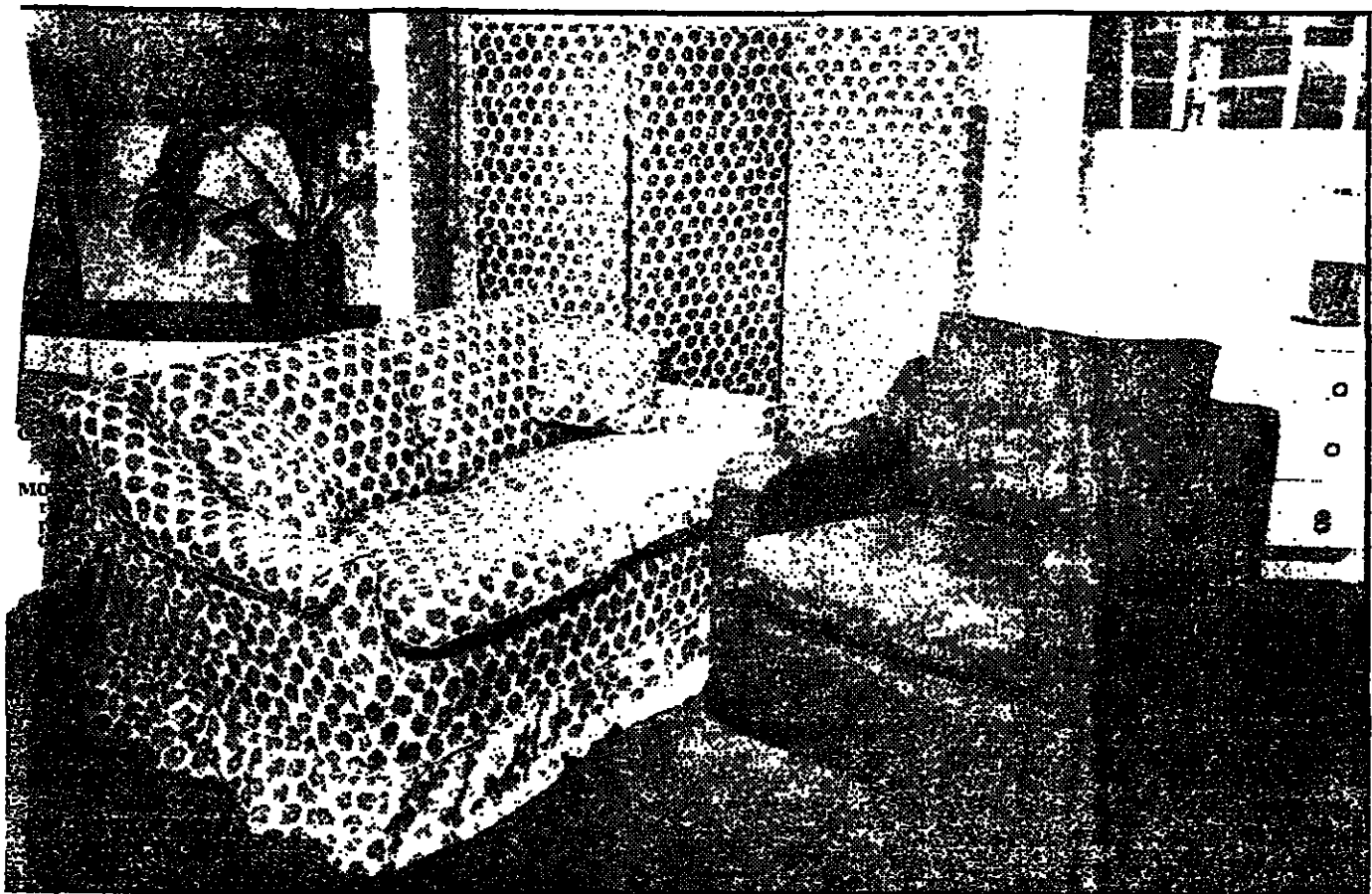
carat can be sent from Spink, who commissioned it from the famous crystal firm of Baccarat to be made in a limited edition of only 500. The Queen's profile is white against a rich purplish ground, showing at its best when the paperweight is lighted, and is framed by a circle of 25 canes.

For dedicated collectors, there are some more paperweights by Paul Stankard, rapidly becoming a star in this world who made his first paper-

weight only seven years ago and is becoming recognized by the cognoscenti, some of whom compare him to a master like Charles Kazzum. Each Stankard piece is signed with a cane inserted into the bottom of the weight and he appeals to collectors by making a series, his insistence on perfection being amply demonstrated by the massive barrel of rejected weights in his New Jersey studio. Among his flowers are a

superbly fragile looking carleys orchid with roots and seed and a rich almond-green one with blue flowers that I did not recognize (both about £225).

A year ago, when I was looking at paperweights at from about £25 at Spink—and there are still quite a number at under £50 there now—the world record price stood at £8,500 for a Clifty fly. In July, 1977, a Clifty bouquet of flowers weight went for £33,000 and last year's next highest was £17,500.



New Dimension has been changing fast during the past year and even faster in the past few months. The photographs are not show their best sale bargains—quite deliberately because what is available in sales can vary from one day to the next and I feel that I can best serve you by telling you about their look, their style, their design sense. From being once a cheap furniture place, specializing in mail order, New Dimension has become a medium-priced, good furniture place with clean, simple design and infinitely more prettiness than it had in the old, very welcome but rather starker days.

Because of the gradual, now rapid,

changes, there will be plenty of bargains among the discontinued lines. Lots of shelving, shelf units, wall or free-standing units with drawers and cupboards are in most branches, making way for the newer pine cube systems for storage and shelving. These wood units are laminated with a good pine veneer and can be varnished or waxed to stay as natural pine or can be painted or stained to any colour you like. The cube system must be familiar to most people but it is worth going along to study because, rather more than most similar storage systems, it makes it much easier for impetuous customers to buy the few pieces they can afford and then to add at will without the initial unit looking

like only half a unit.

As the pine cubes come in, the ever-popular but now obsolescent Homestore is being phased out—not because demand has fallen but because there is no room for the good when the better comes along.

I like the calico-covered chairs and sofas in the Sophie and Scroll upholstery ranges because they are comfortable, extremely compact in even the smallest living rooms, of a good sitting height (so many people are not very agile on low furniture) and yet capacious enough. Loose covers are pretty and I love a Designer Guild cover so much that my own Sophie is dressed in it. Blue and white and fresh. You do not need to buy the loose covers at once because the calico is perfectly livable with until you can afford it. The chair

is normally around £90, the two-seater sofa about £140 and the three-seater £175. Sale price equivalents, if you get there in time, are roughly £81, £125 and £157. The loose covers are made in a new way and could hardly be quicker and simpler to put on and take off and you can have them with frilled skirts or to look neatly fitted. They are not cheap covers but they are attractive.

The ticking sofa (called Tik) is in brown and cream or black and cream stripes and they look smart as well as practical at about £99 for the chair or £149 for the sofa (down to about £79 and £119). To decorate them are a wealth of really pretty cushions.

There are no sale goods as such at any of the New Dimension branches but there

are reductions on normal goods. Every single thing is reduced—I had not realized that this is fairly unusual; sales goods are often only a part of the merchandise, mixed up with lots of non-sale stuff. The reductions may be 10 per cent or may be as high as one-third. There are some pieces down by half but they usually sell out fast so it would hardly be fair for me to irritate you with a list two days after the sale opened.

China and glass, where it exists and it is not in all the shops by any means, is excellent value and in very good taste. Design here is often by Lord Queensberry, who has not only designed for a living but taught others at the Royal School of Art to do so too. What he has not designed he has carefully chosen and I

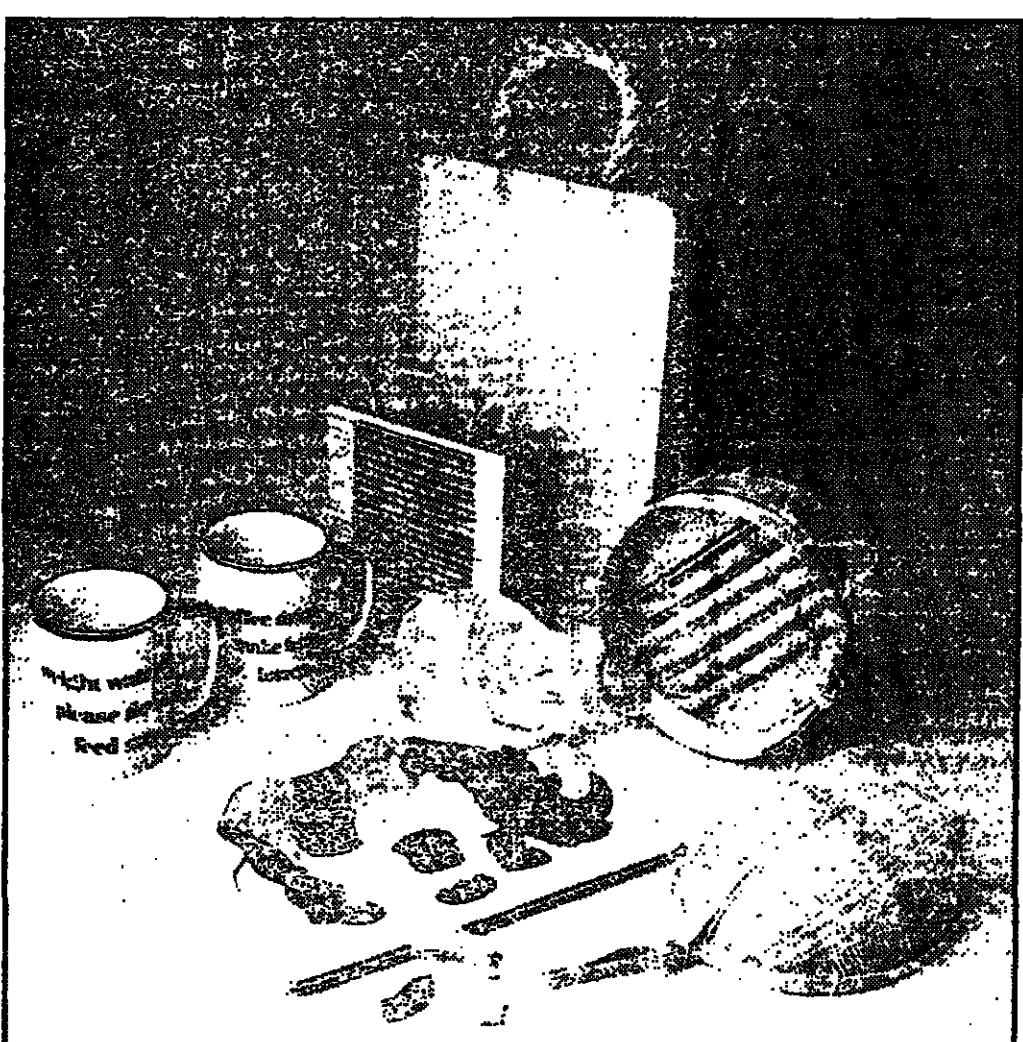
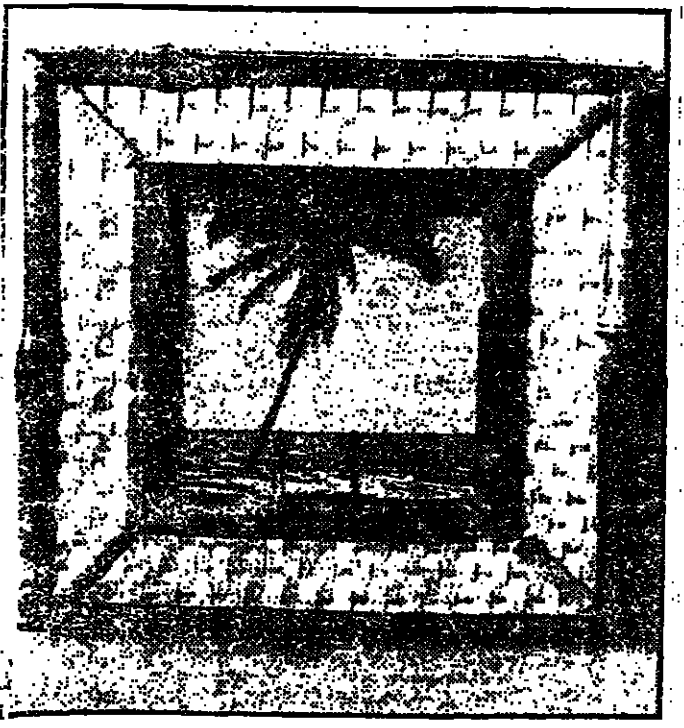
think you will be tempted by a lot. Ipswich, St Albans and West Ealing are the china shops but there just may be sale oddments in some of the other dozen or so branches. If you do not know your nearest New Dimension, phone 01-938 2500 for your branch. And, if you can take time off, go out to West Ealing where the car parking space is enormous and the browsing a pleasure while the glass and china is terrific. There are also some different cane and bamboo tables that have elegance and dignity as well as ecology. This branch is at Manor Road, off Drayton Green Road near West Ealing station, London W13, and they are open next Monday, January 2, at all branches. Since most other shops will be closed, the streets should be clear.

A friend has been studying and practising "intuitive massage" for a long time and now feels ready to start giving massage. I asked for a trial and it was a kind of traditional Swedish massage but she describes it as centring her energy on the tired spots and then working "with full awareness and attention in one's hands to establish contact with the massagee and so to ease or soothe or relax and make for well-being".

She asked how she should start on paying clients, and I said calmly that she should advertise and then, when she explained, suddenly realized how difficult life has become for genuine masseuses. She dare not advertise so how does she get her clients. She dare not do a mailing or a leaflet drop and she, being a mother, cannot take a job in a respectable establishment which would mean inflexible hours. If anybody who wants honest-to-goodness massage would like to try Sara's touch, I will pass on letters but I tell the story as one of pathos not as an advertisement. Incidentally she lives in West London and is not prepared to travel too far.

The National Maritime Museum is a great place to take the young children and teenagers, especially if the weather is fine enough to show the "Curry Sark's silhouette. The museum itself is such an imposing place that it is worth a stare even if one never goes in but there is now plenty of inducement, even for those who think they know it well, because a whole new floor of galleries has been opened in the west wing.

Replacement photographs for my plastic granny-cube duly appeared among the things in my Christmas stocking this year and my photo cube is now once more up to date although children shoot up so much during their teens that it cannot be for long. Photographs of the past cubes go into albums but some old favourites are framed and I do like the bamboo frames at Cucina shops at 8 England's Lane, F. London, NW3 and at 4A Ladbroke Grove, London, W11. The six-inch square is £1.64, the eight by six inches is £2.08, the 10 by 8 inches £3.02. Postage, 30p each.



If it were possible, I should visit, or have an assistant to visit small specialist shops all over Britain. But it would be physically and financially impossible so I would like to thank readers who send me names of such places where the service has been as good as the merchandise.

Shopkeepers themselves send me information but, while I do trust them, they are bound to be enthusiastic about their own enterprises and an objective recommendation is valuable. So do write to me about your favourites. I cannot publish all the names I get, but we do find them useful to pass on to readers and our list is all too short.

All too keenly aware that so many of you live outside London, I do ration rather strictly the mention of purely London shops unless I know them to be willing to handle mail order and telephone inquiries. But Solution is an exception since it is an oasis in a part of London where thousands want to shop in a busy lunchtime or during a brief lull in work and who can find few shops selling original gifts or kitchenery lines of the kind so plentiful in pretty well every country town and in most of the residential "village" areas of large cities.

Solution is off London Wall, near the non-shopping side of the Barbican development but on the opposite side of the "Wall". It is very difficult to find but worth seeking. Use the staircase by the IBM building at 40 Basinghall Street or at

the back of the Guildhall. The correct address is Solution, Basinghall Street, London EC2V 5DS. The telephone number is 01-638 2007.

The name speaks for itself, being the solution to going West or going without for so many City dwellers and workers. It has all that popular basket ware from China and other parts less far than east plus some lovely jewelry from Finland—the Lapponia range no less. Pine furniture is up on that podium and you will see a superb Welsh dresser at £125 inexpensive for what it is, as well as some chests of drawers in an aged-looking pine for about £55. There are many of the enchanting, hand-designed Gallery Five lines and some very interesting Hawaiian costume jewelry which is rather different, rather naive and good value at prices from well under £5.

The Elit shelves, of natural and coloured yarns that look like hanging lanterns, fish nets, keep nest and suspended globes, are there as are the famous Thomas' stacking china ranges and a "fine-effect" glass by Itala. Silk squares from £1.25 make pretty neckties to tie on high-necked sweaters and dresses, and a little animal, sand-casted into shape on thick chunks of glass, attract many customers to part with anything from £6 to £20. Silver and gold jewelry is either fine and dainty or big and chunky and it all reminds me of the very early days of Bony, which is hardly surprising since the proprietor

is one of the two young men who started Bony all those years ago, using the work of young craftsmen and women. The work was chunkier then and there is more of the fine stuff now.

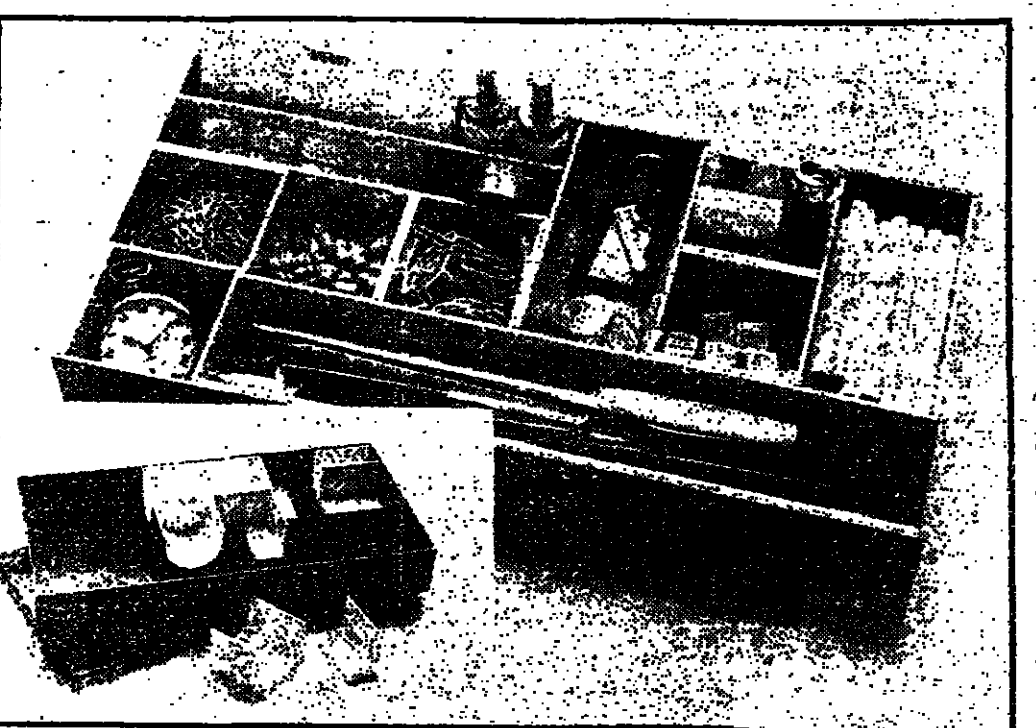
The photograph shows a selection including mugs with messages on them such as "Coffee drinkers make better lovers" or "Weight watchers please don't feed me" and many others (£1.25). Also in the photograph, front right, is a kitchen sieve. It looks like a curious kind of cane racquet, hollow for catching balls, but it is a perfectly workable kitchen sieve. I cannot tell you how long it wears and certainly would not expect it to wear as long as metal or plastic sieves but it is a whole lot more attractive to hang about the kitchen and is cheap enough at 65p for a smallish one with higher prices for larger sizes.

The tambourine-shaped thing with rope handles is a colander in bamboo and cane and it works just as well—there are varying sizes from about 9p to about £1.20.

The rhino jigsaw is beloved by many at £3.65 and he is rather decorative. Then, just in front of the rope-handled board (£3.25) is a grater. This I loved, tough, durable little thing of wood with sharp teeth on either side running in two different directions, and a steal at 60p.

There are catfins and tunics, and quite a good few pieces of plain white lichen china.

Diddy Box is a ghastly name for a pretty useful container, yet another of those plastic, compartmented boxes for workshop, artist, desk, playroom, sewing or whatever. I say "yet another" but I do think this one is more versatile than many because the various compartment sizes can be changed at will by means of plastic partitions. The box itself measures 14½ by 7½ by 2½ inches and weighs about 2½ lbs which means it is fairly tough and stands up to a lot of the heavier oddments like nuts and bolts or tools. Since it has a lid, it does not collect dust along with oddments as so many do. It is in brown, white or red with smoky lid and 24 little dividing pieces. It sells direct from Rotalac Company, Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 1TB. The price is £4.99, the postage 50p.



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